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Montana's Circle of American Masters

MAC selects five folk artists for inaugural award

In an effort to honor Montana's rich heritage and to showcase the present-day vitality of the folk arts, the Montana Arts Council recently endorsed the first individuals nominated for Montana's Circle of American Masters.

The first round of folk artists selected to be honored in this new program are Jackie Larson Bread, beadwork artist; Edward Caffrey, bladesmith; Richard Charlson, wood artist; Al Chandler Goodstrike, traditional hide artist; and Judith McKenzie McCuin, spinner and dyer. Each of these individuals has created a body of work in their lifetime that is considered significant culturally and artistically. They have also helped to preserve and raise awareness about their art by sharing their knowledge with others.

See profiles on page 9



Edward Caffrey



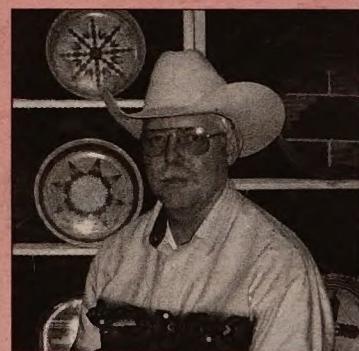
Judith McKenzie McCuin



Jackie Larson Bread



Al Chandler Goodstrike



Richard Charlson



Artist Ben Steele
(Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society)

Ben Steele:

Turning nightmares into art and forgiveness

By Wilbur Wood © 2008 for State of the Arts

The images are horrendous.

Gaunt men stumble down a road; one of them has fallen, exhausted, and a uniformed man, looking well fed, is prodding his boot with a bayonet.

Beside a mud puddle kneels a man who tips a tin cup into his mouth; next to him sprawls the body of another man, head submerged in the puddle.

A shirtless man, distended belly, ribs showing, scraggly beard, dangles a dead rat by its tail as another man, distended belly, ribs showing, looks on in envy.

One soldier brandishes a bayonet, another a sword, as a prisoner slumps over his shovel, standing nearly waist deep in a long hole which will soon be his grave.

There are 93 of these images in all, says their creator, the Billings-based artist Ben Steele. Eighty-five are pencil or pen and ink drawings; eight are oil paintings. They document an otherwise undocumented atrocity in a war of atrocities: the Bataan Death March in the Philippines from April 10 through 18, 1942, and the subsequent imprisonment of the survivors in slave labor camps there, and later in Japan, during World War II.

See Ben Steele on page 5

Myrna Loy Center wins national "Arts Access" award

The Association of Performing Arts Presenters in Washington, D.C. presented Ed Noonan of the Myrna Loy Center in Helena with the 2008 MetLife Foundation Award for Arts Access in Underserved Communities.

Noonan received the award on behalf of the Myrna Loy at the association's 51st annual meeting, Jan. 11-15 in New York City. The award presentation was held at Jazz at Lincoln Center during one of the nation's largest gatherings of arts presenters and artists.

The MetLife Arts Access award honors an organization, board and staff for creating innovative programs that make the arts more accessible to people in underserved communities. The award comes with a \$10,000 prize to the Myrna Loy Center.

The organization was described as "one of the nation's leading rural arts organizations that provided a center for the creation and presenting of contemporary work by national, regional, and local artists for over 30 years." Helena audiences were also recognized in this quote from the program: "Providing Arts Access to Montana, the Myrna has an audience committed to the mission of the organization and invested in contemporary work."

"It was a real honor for myself and the center's staff and board to be recognized by Art Presenters and the MetLife Foundation, just as it is an ongoing blessing to be working in Helena for the Myrna," said Noonan,

See Myrna Loy on page 5



Ed Noonan accepted the MetLife Foundation award on behalf of the Myrna Loy Center.

Arni's Addendum

Arlynn Fishbaugh, Executive Director
afishbaugh@mt.gov



A look at how MAC receives federal funding

The governing board for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) approved funding levels for the next fiscal year in early April. We have been waiting on pins and needles for this action, since the Montana Arts Council's Partnership Agreement application was reviewed in January and we are waiting to learn how we fared.

We are thrilled to report that once again the Montana Arts Council did very well and ranked highly on a national basis. As many of you will remember from the last issue of *State of the Arts*, the NEA received from Congress the largest increase in its budget in 28 years this year. It is a remarkable accomplishment and says volumes about the effectiveness of arts advocates' work when looking at Congress's conviction that this arts spending represents a valuable investment in the country's future despite the demands on the national budget with the mortgage crises and the war.

I thought it would be interesting for our

My job was to make sure the application really represents our agency and our priorities. I also set the tone and make sure that readers have a true understanding about our state, its uniqueness and its superb arts community. Lastly, I make sure that everything flows together, makes sense, and interweaves the two competitive areas – arts education and underserved – throughout the application as seamlessly as possible. The application narrative is 18-pages long, and we also send ancillary materials that fill three binders. These are materials that help make our case, tell our story and bring our accomplishments to life.

The Operational Blueprint

I know there are some people who think we are crazy because we get all excited about the Operational Blueprint MAC developed in the last six months. Lest one think we are all square-brained bureaucrats, let me tell you, this blueprint is our work plan and sets out how we are going to achieve what you all told us you wanted us to

do. It keeps us organized and focused, and in fact makes our lives easier because it helps us define the outcome we want, how we're going to get it, and how we measure it.

During the year we chart our progress and at the end of the year we find out if we were successful or not. So yes, we do get kind of excited by it all!

And this blueprint is the central focus of the NEA application. We call it our Operational Blueprint. They call it strategic planning. In fact, about a third of the NEA's application addresses strategic planning, how it was developed, who provided what kind of input, what does it do, what are the outcomes, how are you going to measure it, and how will you adapt it if necessary.

State arts councils are always talking to each other about planning efforts, new ideas, what's working, what's a pain, how we're changing what we're doing, etc. And the NEA is always paying attention because the NEA works in partnership with state arts agencies to accomplish many of its goals.

You can find our blueprint and our annual work plan on our website at www.art.mt.gov.

I think it's important that everyone in Montana know that your state arts council is working very hard to build upon its reputation as a leader and innovator, and the review of our NEA proposal was music to our ears.

The grant process

Most people know (or can imagine) how hard it can be to sit through a grant panel when the panel is talking about the grant that you have slaved over and written so carefully (and clearly and perfectly, in your mind). MAC treats this panel review very seriously, since federal funding represents such a large percentage of our budget (from 30-40 percent).

We submit an application every three years. Once it has been reviewed and ranked, funding levels are set and approved. We then receive this amount for the next three years, barring any budget crisis.

We have been very fortunate to have a MAC staff member serve on this grant panel in some years when our application is not being heard. If we don't, then we always send someone to Washington, DC, to hear the grant panel discussion the year before our application is due. We also send someone to hear the actual panel review.

By doing this, we learn first-hand what is currently on panelists' minds and what seem to be the trends in directions. It is a very high privilege to serve on the panel, and we have learned a great deal about applications and submissions.

One-third of all the states are reviewed each year. The competition is always fierce, while at the same time, inspirational and really quite awe-inspiring. Each state is so different, and we all solve our problems and meet our challenges in unique ways – there is so much to learn from each other (and we do.)

Cinda Holt and Beck McLaughlin were the chief writers of this year's application, with help from Cindy Kittridge and Dyani Bingham in the Folk Arts area, Kristin Han Burgoyne in the Americans for Disabilities Act arena, Carleen Layne with the budget, and Stefanie Flynn providing a keen eye on making it readable and keeping track of the myriad of attachments we sent. Kim Hurtle added her eagle eye for proofing and her design expertise on packaging the application.

Lee Ann pointed out MAC's extensive list of partners. She felt it was impressive that the arts council helped to draft Montana's art content standards with the Office of Public Instruction. The rest of the panel chimed in about the detail of the annual staff work plan, noting there is no question about where the responsibility lies for each action.

They lauded the underserved focus, making sure that eastern Montana is covered. Others noted that arts education and the underserved elements are woven throughout the plan and are also specifically addressed in various sections.

MAC was praised for the work it is doing with American Indian artists in the state. Its newspaper, *State of the Arts*, was also lauded. (Several years ago, it was called "The New York Times" of state arts council newspapers," which we loved.)

There was discussion about a little map we always include at the beginning of our application that helps set the stage for Montana's vast geography. We talk about the fact that if the northwestern corner of the state was put in Chicago, the northeast corner would be in Washington, DC. With our seven-to-eight people per square mile on average, there is much of the state that qualifies as not only rural, but "frontier." That always causes eye-opening comments around the table.

Excellent accountability

During the panel discussion, the group talked about the fact that they were extremely impressed that MAC took possession of every issue that had been raised in the planning process. There was "excellent accountability."

The fact that MAC's Operational Blueprint includes answering to "Indications of Success" and "Why We Do It" provides both internal and external accountability. Many panelists very much liked the plan and its format.

(We do want to give credit here to the Nebraska Arts Council for their use of "indications of success" and "consequences of failure" a few years back. We very much liked the way their plan was organized and its consistency in approach and plain-spoken way of addressing things. We borrowed their ideas and added our own. Credit is also due to our fabulous graphic designer, Jeff Lovely, here in Helena, who has helped MAC creatively address its promotion and printed materials on a lean and mean budget.)

MAC included "Consequences of Failure" in the blueprint, which panelists also liked – and thought the information included there was appropriately ominous, but subtle.

There was consensus that the panel very much liked the overall presentation of the plan itself. They felt that the public would actually read it, and it had language that is familiar to everyone, and that the blueprint mock-up design is visually inviting.

"So smart and strategic"

One panelist said that MAC was "so smart and strategic." They asked that the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies post MAC's

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STATE OF THE ARTS

State of the Arts is published six times a year by the Montana Arts Council and produced by *Lively Times*.

State of the Arts welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

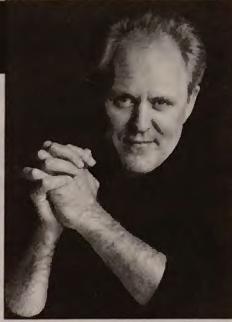
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Deadline: The deadline for submissions is May 25, 2008, for the July/August 2008 issue. Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email mac@mt.gov.

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CONGRATS TO...

Alpine Theatre Project of Whitefish and part-time Montanan **John Lithgow**, who collaborated on the premiere of Lithgow's solo play "Stories by Heart," in 2007. The production moved to an Off-Broadway run at Lincoln Center in New York City starting April 20. "John Lithgow: Stories by Heart" sees the famous actor reunite with director Jack O'Brien. Lithgow premiered the work with Alpine Theatre Project in a sold-out single performance last July. Originally titled "A Story About a Story," the production recalls Lithgow's history as an actor and storyteller. "We're thrilled to see John's show moving on to great things," said ATP Artistic Director Betsi Morrison. "It has always been our vision for ATP to be seen as a place where artists feel comfortable trying new work." The Lincoln Center run of "Stories by Heart" points to a trend ATP hopes to continue this August with Olympia Dukakis' adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," titled "The Other Side of the Island."



John Lithgow

Missoula film producers **Rob Whitehair** and **Pam Voth**, whose "Little Red Truck," a film about Missoula Children's Theatre, won the Best Feature Documentary award at the International Family Film Festival, held Feb. 29-March 1 at Raleigh Studios in Hollywood, CA. The documentary, which premiered Feb. 16 during the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula, was also screened March 8 at the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival in San Luis Obispo, CA. Accomplished film and television actor J.K. Simmons, who once worked with MCT Community Theatre, attended the Hollywood screening, and the Goodyear Blimp (which plays a small role in the film) flew overhead, flashing the message "Goodyear Salutes The Little Red Truck." The film traces the experiences of kids when the "little red truck" from MCT rolls into town, and children participate in staging a full-scale musical in just six days.

Directors **Justin Lubke** and **Shasta Grenier**, whose film "Class C" won the Big Sky Award at the fifth Annual Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. The film was produced by **Wally Kurth** (who also narrated the production), **Tim Swain** and **Markus Zetler**, in partnership with Montana PBS, and features a score by Grammy-nominated composer and Montana native **Philip Aaberg**. The 88-minute documentary follows five teams and their quests to win the 2005 girls' state basketball championship. It also includes commentary by Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson, who was born in Deer Lodge and lived in Great Falls as a youth. Award-winning director John Dahl says the film's portrait of rural Montana "captures the spirit of the American West and what makes this country so great. I loved it."

The **Helena Symphony Orchestra**, which was profiled in the March/April issue of *Symphony* magazine, as part of a nine-page article titled "Big Sounds Big Dreams." The story about the Helena Symphony leads off a survey of three small orchestras, with annual budgets under \$1 million that consistently tackle challenging works. The Helena Symphony caught the eye of writer Jennifer Melick due to its multi-year performance cycle of Mahler symphonies. Maestro Allan Scott told the magazine that his musicians "know that going through the journey of Mahler can be overly intense. Every rehearsal can be heartbreaking and emotionally exhausting. But the rewards are so enormous musically, and they really pay off when you share it with an audience." The orchestra's more challenging works are usually balanced with familiar works, and the result, says executive director **Mary Williams**, is "the quality of the orchestra's playing has skyrocketed," while fundraising efforts and season subscriptions are on the upswing. "Our job as conductors of orchestras in the 21st century is akin to that of a curator of great art," Scott tells the magazine. "We are there to show the art in all its glory, mystery, contradictions, fun and questions. The biggest problem is: so much music, so little time."

Hellgate High School student **Emily Peragine** of Missoula, who took third place in the Music Teachers National Association senior voice competition, held March 29-April 2 in Denver, CO. The 15-year old earned the opportunity to compete after winning the MTNA Northwest Division Competition and the state contest. As a member of the Hellgate Chamber Choir and Chevaliers, she has been chosen to participate in the All State and All Northwest Choirs for two consecutive years, and was selected as a soloist for the 2007 All Northwest Choir. Peragine, a student of Missoula voice teacher Gina Lapka and the daughter of Patricia and Jon Peragine, has been taking voice lessons since she was nine. She hopes her voice and musicianship carry her far. "The bottom line," she told the *Missoulian*, "is I want to sing at the Metropolitan Opera company."

Helena saxophonist **Wilbur Rehmann**, who performed April 5 at the Sheba Lounge, located in San Francisco's historic Fillmore Jazz District. The Wilbur Rehmann Trio featured two noted Bay Area musicians, Edo Castro on percussion and E. "Doc" Smith on bass.

Livingston artist **John Banovich**, whose one-of-a-kind NASCAR hood was sold during a live auction Jan. 25 at the Safari Club International convention in Reno, NV. "Inside the Red Zone," an original oil creation, graced the hood of driver Kevin Harvick's number 29 racing car. Proceeds benefit the new Banovich Wildscapes Foundation and Safari Club International Foundation.

Roundup artist **Jane Stanfel**, whose "Ghost Ranches of Montana" paintings and related stories will be on display June 3-28 at Jadeite Gallery in New York City. Stanfel has spent the past five years capturing in oils the cultural symbolism of the abandoned ranches and farms of the state's first white settlers. To give a sense of time and place, the ranches, rusting equipment, and household items left behind are painted on canvases framed in old barn wood, while the lives of the settlers are represented pictorially on the barn wood itself in muted sepia tones, reminiscent of old photos. So far, she has completed 54 paintings, and is still at work on the project, collecting stories and lore en route. Her painting "Old Time Branding," has been chosen as the logo for the Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Lewistown this August.



"A Woman's Life" by Jane Stanfel

The 27 current and former resident artists at Helena's **Archie Bray Foundation**, whose works were on display at Third Street Gallery in Carnegie, PA, during the 42nd annual conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, held March 19-22 in Pittsburgh.

Helena artist **Loren Kovich**, who had a painting accepted in the American Watercolor Society's 141st International Exhibition in New York. The exhibit continues through April.



"Fresh Sushi" by Fred Boyer

Helena artist **Karen Luckey**, whose painting "Golden Rule Days" was accepted in the International Museum of Contemporary Masters of Fine Art/Salon International 2008 Competition, on display April 12-May 2 at the Greenhouse Gallery in San Antonio, TX, or online at www.greenhousegallery.com. The contest attracted 1,175 entries from 47 states, the District of Columbia and 16 additional countries.

Anaconda jewelry artist **Ken Bova**, whose work was featured in the winter issue of *Ornament* magazine. Bova's piece, titled "(The Future is) An Open Door," is a mixed-media brooch created in sterling, 23-karat gold leaf, bones, butterfly wing, and U.S. currency. It was shown as part of an article on the Haystack Mountain School of Craft in Maine where Bova will be teaching a two-week intensive jewelry workshop this June.

Bozeman artist **Richard Jensen**, whose oil painting of a bison, "Prime Habitat," captured first prize Feb. 28 at "A Sense of Place Art Show"; the painting will adorn the 2008 Discovery Map of Bozeman and Big Sky and be featured prominently on the Discovery WebMap. "The bison is iconic to this area and Richard's piece effectively conveys a popular image that draws tourists here," said the show's juror, Cyndy Andrus, director of the Bozeman Convention and Visitors Bureau. Dozens of local and regional artists

participated in the show, with the top 10 entries displayed during the awards ceremony at the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture in Bozeman. Second place went to **Linda Abbott**, with her painting "Fall Leaves" and third-place finisher was **Marsha Karle** with "Rising to the Light."



"Prime Habitat" by Richard Jensen

Cascade artist **Laurie A. Stevens**, whose oil painting "Little Star" won the C.M. Russell Museum CEO Award during the annual C.M. Russell Auction, held March 12-15 in Great Falls. Stevens, who was born in Billings, spent 11 years in Los Angeles as an artist in the entertainment industry and now resides on the family ranch near Cascade. Other Montanans whose work was honored during the event include **Kristi Billmayer**, who received the People's Choice Award for Painting for her pastel, "Muttley Crew," and **Christy Daniels**, whose bronze "The Crossing, See You On the Other Side" garnered the People's Choice Award for Sculpture.



"Friendship" by Nellie Bandelier

Dillon mosaic artist **Nellie Bandelier**, whose mosaic "Friendship," made of gold tile and stained and recycled glass, is featured in the January issue of a new magazine, *Mosaic Art Now*. Edited by Bill Buckingham and Michael Welch, the first issue offers a view of new directions in modern mosaic art. For details, visit www.mosaicyearbook.com.

Continued on next page

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Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments.

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If you include a digital photo, please make sure it's at least 150 lines per inch (lpi or dpi).

MORE CONGRATS TO ...

Butte artist Sallie Bowen, whose watercolor/collage, "Shining River, Rippling Hills," was accepted in the Memphis Germantown National Juried Show in March. In addition, two watercolors by Bowen – "Yucca" and "Old Growth, New Growth" – were selected for the Coastal National Juried Show, on display April 3-26 at the Glynn Art Gallery in St. Simons Island, GA.



"Old Growth, New Growth"
by Sallie Bowen

Sculptor Thor Myhre, a native of Charlo who now resides in Washington, who had two sculptures selected from 260 entries for this year's "Sculpted Green" outdoor sculpture exhibit in Bellevue, Westcott Bay Sculpture Park on San Juan Island and Bellingham's Big Rock Garden will also show his sculptures again this summer.

Polson students **Genevieve "Gigi"** and **Marita Growingthunder**, who received the American Indian Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award, presented by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development during a conference, March 3-7 in Las Vegas. The sisters co-own GenMari Creations, which makes and markets cookies, beadwork, jewelry and Native American-style clothing for dolls.



Christine Valentine

Christine Valentine of Birney, who earned a WyoPoets' Award for Excellence, WyoPoets is the Wyoming affiliate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Valentine, a published, award-winning poet, has been a member of the organization for many years. The award recognizes "her organizational service as editor of the *WyoPoets' Newsletter* and diligent correspondent to WyoPoets' members." The certificate also notes her service "as a mentor to poets and her embodiment of the spirit of leadership."



Wilson Higgs

Flathead Valley resident **Wilson Higgs**, M.D., who received the annual Volunteer Leadership Award from the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras. He received the traveling plaque, inscribed with the names of the winners over the past 15 years, Feb. 23-24 during the Glacier Symphony and Chorale weekend concerts. The award is given annually to one person in the state "in recognition of the outstanding contributions made by volunteers to enrich the symphonies and the lives of the people of Montana." Dr. Higgs has served on the board of the GSC since 2004 and has sung in the Glacier Chorale for over 20 years. He serves on the Board Development Committee, Executive Committee, Corporate Sponsorship Committee and Silver Season Campaign Committee. "It's easy to be passionate about a great organization that consistently presents exceptional performances," he says. GSC Executive Director Alan Satterlee calls Higgs "one of those 'dream board members' who steps up and volunteers for a variety of things and always follows through."

Helena art teacher **Tim Speyer**, who was recognized as a distinguished educator by the Helena Education Foundation. Speyer, who teaches art at C.R. Anderson Middle School, was nominated by a student as part of the foundation's Celebration of Excellence. The sixth annual event, held May 12, will honor 53 students as either scholars or achievers and the teachers who have most impacted their school careers.

MAPS: Media Arts in the Public Schools and **Corvallis High School**, which received a \$2,000 Teach Award from Best Buy Co. for integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. MAPS was launched in 2004 at Corvallis High School and has since evolved into a profitable production company and spread to four more Montana towns (Missoula, Bozeman, Red Lodge and Wolf Point). The organization's student filmmakers now have television commercials running in 38 states and the program recently received the 2008 Award of Excellence from the Society of New Communications Research, based in San Francisco.

Havre-Hill County Library's head librarian, **Bonnie Williamson**, who received the Havre North Star Award from the Chamber of Commerce for "excelling in community leadership and community service." Williamson, who helped bring the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read program to Havre in 2007, was recognized as an asset to the community, and praised for her leadership, integrity, willingness to provide technical support and commitment to the public, among many attributes.

Missoula residents **Tom and Ann Boone** and **Ray and Susie Risho**, who were honored April 21 for Individual Cultural Achievement during the annual Missoula Cultural Council award luncheon. The award, established in 1999, honors individuals whose outstanding work in the arts and humanities have made a significant contribution to the community's quality of life. **Advanced Litho Printing** received the Business Support for the Arts award.

The **C.M. Russell Museum** of Great Falls, which received \$250,000 from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust for its new permanent exhibition, "The Bison: American Icon, Heart of Plains Indian Culture." Scheduled to open in late 2008, the exhibition will explore the story of the bison by examining the diverse interactions of people with bison in the Northern Plains from 1750 to present. Funds from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust will be used to help cover costs associated with the fabrication and construction of *The Bison* exhibit, including renovation of existing galleries and the creation of an entirely new gallery space.

The fire-ravaged **Rialto Community Theatre** in Deer Lodge, which received another big boost in early March with a \$100,000 commitment from Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan of Deer Lodge and Dillon. Pioneer gave \$50,000 as an outright grant, and the other \$50,000 as a challenge grant, with Pioneer Federal matching each dollar donated for the project up to that amount. This would make the total impact over \$150,000. The Rialto board has set June 1, 2008, as the target date for matching the challenge, but expects to reach this goal before then because of the way donations have been coming in from all over the country. Total cost of the restoration project is about \$3.5 million, and more than \$1.2 million has been raised so far. "Pioneer Federal has been a great friend to the Rialto since our nonprofit bought it in 1995," Rialto president Steve Owens said. "This is a great opportunity for people to double the value of their contribution." Coupled with cuts that the board, architects, and engineers have made to bring down costs, and other recent gifts, this donation could allow actual rebuilding, which will be done in five phases, to start later this spring.

Bozeman-based organization **Hopa Mountain**, which received a \$20,000 grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation for the StoryMakers program, which helps parents and early childhood educators create language-rich home learning environments. Funding from the foundation will be used specifically to purchase high-quality, age-appropriate children's books and accompanying resource materials for parents, which will be offered to families with children under age six living on all seven of Montana's Indian reservations. Founded in 2004, Hopa Mountain invests in rural and tribal community leaders as they work to improve education, ecological, and economic development in their home communities. "StoryMakers supports local citizen leaders throughout Montana who are working to create positive, interactive language experiences for young children," said Linda Y. Clark, program director. For more information, visit www.hopamountain.org.

WELCOME AND BEST WISHES TO

Seth Bloom, who recently launched the Pimlico Group, a new multimedia business that is devoted to producing semi-annual theatrical shows, short films and feature films. The group debuts with a production of the Pulitzer Prize winning play "Doubt," May 7-24 at the Crystal Theatre in Missoula. Bloom, who has considerable acting experience, has worked as the creative director for Pimlico Book Company for the past five years.

Robert Wood, who recently became the new artistic director of Venture Theatre in Billings. Wood was born and raised in Montana, earned a bachelor's degree from Rocky Mountain College in 1991 and was actively engaged in community theater until leaving the state in 2000 to continue his theater education. He's since earned a Master of Arts degree in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and is preparing to finish a Master of Fine Arts in directing from the University of Cincinnati. "I want to share my creative ideas and knowledge with Venture," he says. He'll join the staff this summer.

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The friends and family of Butte native and long-time Great Falls resident **Perle Weissman**. She died Jan. 25 at age 91. Weissman's innate musical talent earned her, after graduation from Butte High School, a scholarship to Juilliard School of Music in New York City. Unfortunately, the Great Depression intervened, and she returned to Montana, where she taught and performed. She met her future husband, Maurie Weissman, in Missoula, and the couple married and moved to Great Falls, where he joined his father as a fur-trader and scrap-metal dealer. Her family remembers going to sleep at night listening to their mother playing Liszt, Chopin, Beethoven and Mozart concertos. In addition to music, Weissman found creative expression in making tile furniture, ceramics and jewelry; she also was a dancer with the Dancers of the Nile, and even performed in movies. She played a Keno caller in the internationally released "The Slaughter Rule" and was in her granddaughter's film, "A Day Out with Gordy." The Weissmans were very supportive of the McLaughlin Research Institute in Great Falls, and when the Smuin Ballet performed benefit concerts for the institute, ballet dancers visited her at her home or the Civic Center. Although crippled with arthritis, she could still play Beethoven's Fifth Symphony for four hands when her daughter Suzi visited from California.

The friends and family of **Wilma Rosemary Shepherd Bassett**. The accomplished musician died Feb. 6 in Helena. She began performing professionally at age 12, and formed an all-girl dance band while a student at Havre High School that was much in demand along the Hi-Line. She attended Comish School of Music in Seattle, where she studied classical music by day and played honky-tonk and dance music at night to help pay for tuition. She played and toured with big bands during World War II, and played piano and organ at supper clubs in Great Falls and other Montana towns after the war. Bassett eventually settled in Libby, where she played at the Caboose, and later at the MK Steakhouse. She also wrote a column for the Libby newspaper.

Ben Steele: Turning nightmares into art and forgiveness

(from page 1)

Ben Steele was one of those survivors. Untrained as an artist at that time, he began making sketches in Bilibid Prison where for six months he was too ill to work. "I crawled around on the floor," he said. "I thought I was going nuts, so I started drawing to stay sane."

He drew with a stick, with charcoal, on the dirt floor, on walls, later somehow acquired a pencil and paper. At first he drew horses, cabins, pines — scenes from his days growing up on his parents' ranch in the Bull Mountains, east of Roundup — but eventually, encouraged by his fellow prisoners of war, he began to draw life as he was experiencing it.

All but two of these first drawings did not survive the war, but afterward, from memory, Ben re-created them. At first he did this as part of his own psychological rehabilitation after returning to the United States. Later, as he became a trained artist (studying at the Cleveland Institute of Art, Kent State University, and in 1955 earning an M.A. from Denver University), in the midst of producing landscapes, murals and portraits, he continued to return to these wartime images and turn them into art.

And at the age of 90 he is still doing it. In mid-March, Elizabeth Wood and I visit Ben and his wife, Shirley Steele, a poet, a few days before they are to leave for New Mexico to attend the 18th annual Bataan Memorial Death March, a marathon and half-marathon that draws thousands of runners and walkers.

They come from all 50 states and also from foreign countries, including Japan and Germany (U.S. adversaries in World War II). Ben shows us all eight of his prisoner of war paintings — twilit images of men standing in line to get water, burying their dead, begging for food, crammed into the hold of a cargo ship tak-

ing them to Japan, working in a coal mine. These eight would be reproduced for display at the New Mexico event, where Ben is scheduled to speak on March 28.

Then we stroll out to his backyard studio, and there on his easel is a ninth oil painting, depicting Death March survivors, having trudged 70 miles in nine days with little water and almost no food, being funneled into a train car that normally would haul livestock. The composition, the postures of the men, their faces — all are accomplished with Steele's hard-earned mastery.

In 1974 the Yellowstone Art Center — which both Ben and Shirley played major roles in creating out of the former county jail — had a display showing war from the perspectives of two artists. Shirley Steele wrote this poem about that display.

Gallery Wars

*We saw them all in proper sequence —
murder, rape, and mutilation
ending with, of course, starvation.
We shuddered sadly at the monster,
eating victims — Goya's war.*

*Across the hall Ben Steele's soldiers
ate their rice by smouldering firelight,
killed a rat to round their diet
and dug the graves they would lie in.
More recent victims — same old war!*

The remarkable thing is that Ben bears no grudge, speaks matter-of-factly of this part of his life, with no bitterness.



"Death Marchers Drink from Mud Hole" by Ben Steele
(Photo courtesy of Montana Historical Society)

A Japanese woman who was a child in the town where Ben labored in coal mines, until the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the war to an end, came and visited the Steeles few years ago. They have hosted visiting Japanese students.

Ben Steele has long since smoothed out the scars of this ordeal so vivid, still, in his mind. He has done so by turning these nightmares into art.

Editor's Note: Ben Steele is a Professor of Art Emeritus at Montana State University-Billings (formerly Eastern Montana College) where he taught from 1959 to 1982. He and Shirley Steele worked with the Billings Arts Association and the Montana Institute of the Arts for many years. Her poem "Gallery Wars" first appeared in *Montana Arts Magazine* in 1974 and is used here with her permission.

This piece is copyrighted by Wilbur Wood, who retains all rights after first publication by the Montana Arts Council.

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Applications still open for First Peoples' Marketplace

There is still limited space for Native American artists who would like to apply to sell their work in the First Peoples' Marketplace, which is part of the upcoming National Folk Festival, July 11-13 in Butte.

The marketplace is sponsored by Seacast, Inc. (www.seecast.com), a Seattle-based corporation with deep Butte roots.

"Thanks to the Seacast sponsorship, we can now invite Native American artists from throughout the region to apply to the juried craft marketplace to showcase and sell their work during the festival," said George Everett, executive director of Mainstreet Uptown Butte, one of the lead organizations developing the event. "We expect to attract tens of thousands of summer visitors from throughout the region and we hope that Native artists will see the opportunity to sell their work at the event," added Everett.

For an application and guidelines, visit the website at www.nationalfolkfestival.com or call 406-497-6464 and provide a regular mailing address.

Myrna Loy (from page 1)

executive director of the arts center since 2000. Noonan was especially happy that former executive director Arnie Malina was present and recognized for his work in founding the organization.

Noonan said the goals of the MetLife Award happen to mirror the mission of the Myrna Loy: "to present a broad spectrum of performing and media arts that people living in the Helena area otherwise would not see; to support the creation of new works; and to foster a lifelong involvement in the arts through arts education and residencies."

The award and the prize will help to support the ongoing work of presenting and especially providing school residencies in the Helena area. "It just makes the support we get from the Helena community go farther," Noonan said. "It pushes us a bit closer to the goals that our board of directors laid out for us this year."

In addition, the Myrna Loy recently received a \$30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for its programs. "These grants are very competitive," says Noonan. "The fact that we regularly receive them and that we are the largest recipient in Montana for a performing arts organization is a good sign."

When accepting the MetLife Award, Noonan read the following original poem (to much appreciation from the audience):

To Arts Presenters

Art,
anticipating your arrival,
I thought
the stress about the press,
the details about your lodging
(which by the way are correct),
the tech you requested
(oh yeah,
call the tech director
at 406-544-7093 for questions),
and details I don't want to mention
was worth the wait
(although I have been standing by the gate
and you're already two hours late
since your plane was held up in Seattle).
I know you'll be great
and meet the community
(somewhat distracted by the crisis over
rates
and the big TV show
and the championship game
which is on the night you're performing),
but you'll meet local artists
(who I should warn you are known to be
cranky)
and the students, love the students,

whose lives you'll change by safely
revealing their secrets on the stage,
and then,
can't wait,
you'll perform before a house
that when I count receipts
might be short or break even
or make a little or lots of money
(the accurate ambiguity of that statement
is only somewhat funny).
You'll perform
and get a warm, maybe a slightly cool
reception,
who knows, a standing "o"
(but expect a few befuddled moans).
what I'm trying to say is,
Art,
while I'm waiting for your plane,
I feel that I'm helping you survive
(or hoping that you'll help me and my
organization survive),
what I mean is,
Art,
thanks to you
I feel alive.

— Ed Noonan

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The friends and family of Karen Kempel Jones. The long-time community volunteer died March 27 after a two-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 64. Kempel Jones was honored Feb. 28 at the gala opening of the MCT Community Theatre production of "The Miracle Worker," where she was saluted as one of Missoula's most prolific volunteers, fundraisers and a true "Miracle Worker" for her tireless commitment and support to organizations that make a difference in Missoula. Besides her work with MCT, where she sat on the board of directors for many years, she crusaded for many organizations, including A Carousel for Missoula, The UM Excellence Fund, Habitat for Humanity and the Ronald McDonald House. Recently, in a letter of support for a special "Retire the Mortgage Fund" created in her name for the Missoula Children's Theatre, she quoted Abraham Lincoln: "If a cause is worthy of your last full measure of devotion, it certainly is worthy of every effort you can give."



Karen Kempel Jones with George Lambros (Photo by Eric Elander)

About Books

Jackalope Dreams

By Mary Clearman Blew

Published March 2008 by University of Nebraska

Press, Lincoln, NE

\$24.95 hardcover

"She's been facing the weather too long, she's got a temper like a bad windstorm and she's too old to be starting over." But Corey Henry is indeed starting over, after years of teaching at the one-room Mill Creek school that's been shuttered by the school board.

And then her dad, the crusty old rancher, war veteran and legendary rodeo star who runs his daughter's life, shoots himself in his pickup.

So begins Mary Clearman Blew's debut novel about a 60-year-old woman, who turns to painting to find solace from rage and despair, and a gritty Montana ranching community that's reluctantly plummeting headfirst into the 21st century. Cultures clash, as her neighbor from California (who spearheaded efforts to close the school) tries to wrest away her land after destroying her livelihood.

Blew, who grew up in Montana and now teaches creative writing at the University of Idaho, is the author of a collection of essays, *All But the Waltz*, and three books of short stories, including *Sister Coyote*.



A Painter and His Wife

By Katherine Lollar Rowland

Published by Orange Frazer Press, Wilmington, OH

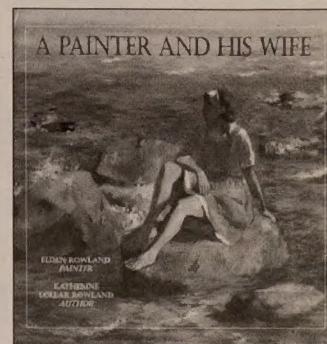
\$22 hardcover

In her memoir, Katherine Lollar Rowland tells the story of the life she led with her husband, artist Elden Rowland, in the art communities of Sarasota, Cape Cod and Montana. After World War II, the couple bought a travel trailer and left jobs and family in southwest Ohio to pursue Elden's dream of becoming a fine artist.

In 1960, the couple headed "out west" for a six-week jaunt that included a visit to the Hilton Leech Art School in Virginia City. The journey was inspirational (the artist garnered 14 awards in the 1960s from paintings influenced by his travels in the West), and the couple returned to Virginia City repeatedly, as Elden taught painting at Leech's schools in both Montana and Florida.

The book mentions Bozeman artist and teacher Ray Campeau, who became the mainstay of the Montana school after Leech's death in 1969, and gives color and detail to the artists' community that once thrived there.

The narrative is illustrated with more than 50 color reproductions of the artist's wide-ranging work.



—Kristi Niemeyer

This Common Secret My Journey as an Abortion Doctor

By Susan Wicklund with Alan Kesselheim

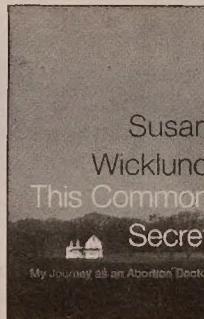
Published January 2008 by PublicAffairs, New York, NY

\$24.95 hardcover

Susan Wicklund, a physician who has worked in the field of women's reproductive health for more than 20 years, knows first-hand the trauma of a difficult abortion, and also, as a doctor, how safe, legal abortions can be "about life: quality of life for infants, children and adults. Everywhere and in every sense of the word. Life, not death."

Her riveting and passionate memoir describes her own courageous journey, as a young, single mother who musters the resources – both mental and emotional – to become a doctor, and then to pursue a career that lands her in the midst of America's war over abortion and reproductive rights. It is a battlefield that has posed considerable personal risk for herself and her family, as the increasingly violent protesters blocked entrances to the clinics where she worked, assaulted her, threatened her life, barricaded her house and harassed her daughter.

Still she steps forward, to tell her story and to continue her work. Her book "puts flesh and blood on the issue and gives it a woman's face," writes activist and author Barbara Ehrenreich.



—Kristi Niemeyer

The Ghost of Schafer Meadows

By Beth Hodder

Published 2007 by Grizzly Ridge Publishing, West Glacier, MT

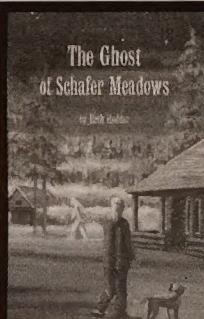
\$7.99 softcover

A 12-year-old girl's life changes dramatically when her father's job takes the family from New Mexico to a remote ranger station in Montana, where she's deprived of all the modern amenities, including cell phones and internet access.

In *The Ghost of Schafer Meadows*, Jessie Scott and her dog, Oriole, form a special bond as they try to discover the source of mysterious happenings, as Jessie adjusts to life in the Montana wilderness and at the Schafer Meadows Ranger Station.

With 25 years of experience with U.S. Forest Service, almost entirely with the Flathead National Forest in Montana, Hodder's scenery descriptions are sure to be accurate and her zest for the outdoors is apparent.

Hodder, whose husband worked at the Spotted Bear Ranger Station for 13 years, lived in the ranger's house at Schafer Meadows where the book takes place. Sequels to *The Ghost of Schafer Meadows* are planned.



—Crystal Stipe

When the Wolves Returned

Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone
By Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, with photographs by Dan Hartman and Cassie Hartman

Published April 2008 by Walker Books for Young Readers, New York, NY

\$17.95 hardcover

Missoula author Dorothy Patent teamed up with father-daughter photographers Dan and Cassie Hartman of Silver Gate, for an engaging look at how the reintroduction of wolves has helped restore ecological balance and diversity in Yellowstone Park.

Accompanied by large color photos, Patent tells how the decision to eradicate wolves from the park eventually had consequences for all aspects of the ecosystem, from the elk and coyotes that grew too numerous without the wolves to keep their numbers in check, to the streamside aspen and willows that were devoured by hungry elk. With the return of wolves, scientists have noticed that pronghorn antelope and beavers, as well as small predators, now appear to be thriving.

Hinshaw has written more than 100 books for children inspired by her interest in science and nature. The Hartmans, who live on the edge of Yellowstone Park, are avid hikers and photographers who use their big backyard as a backdrop.



Faces of Sorrow

By Janna Nickerson

Published 2007 by Hidden Talent Press, Missoula, MT

\$14.99 softcover

The battle between the Warlord and his foes continues to rage in the second installment of Janna Nickerson's Fifth Battle Trilogy.

Her first book, *Eyes of War*, told the tale of three children born on the same fateful night: a peasant, a princess and their archenemy, destined to become the all-powerful Warlord.

In *Faces of Sorrow*, unseen forces guide both sides as they gather more soldiers and an array of mythical creatures, and hone their own magical powers. Prophecies and secrets propel the story and its characters, and the fate of the Northern Kingdom will be determined by the outcome.

Nickerson, who studies anthropology at The University of Montana, completed her first fantasy novel and created her own company to publish and distribute the book as her senior project at Hellgate High School. She continues to make presentations about writing and publishing to high-school and middle-school students in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota and Minnesota.



Nakedly Raw Considerations Deepening Into Awareness

By Beatrice Arroe

Published 2007 by Scott Company Publishing, Kalispell, MT

\$16.95 softcover

When Whitefish psychotherapist Beatrice Arroe was diagnosed with breast cancer over four years ago, she embarked on an unorthodox journey of healing – or making peace with death.

As she turned to raw foods ("I didn't want to be a walking cemetery anymore"), practiced yoga and Qi Gong, studied with myriad spiritual teachers and visited various healers, from John of God in Brazil to a Tibetan doctor from India, her experiences coalesced into her book, *Nakedly Raw Considerations*.

Short chapters explore a vast array of human conditions, from anger and betrayal to faith, confidence and awe, and many end with a pithy saying:

"Paddling upstream doesn't mean you have an assiduous nature; it's likely you enjoy the struggle of burning up excessive calories."

Arroe says she finds gardening a fine metaphor for "preaching, teaching, counseling, parenting and healing." Her book transforms "a pile of wild foliage" into a fruitful garden of ideas.



—Kristi Niemeyer

About Books

Photographs from Eaden A Montana Story

By Brad Bergum
Published November 2007 by iUniverse Inc.,
Lincoln, NE

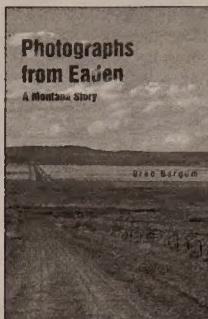
\$26.95 hardcover; \$16.95 softcover

The unique culture of Montana Class C high school sports and small-town Montana life form the backdrop Brad Bergum's debut novel.

The novel chronicles the life of Marcus Andrews, a high school senior seeking his slice of personal glory in his hometown of Eaden. His struggle to become a basketball star is compounded by the burden of his father's crippling obsessive behavior and the sacrifices his mother has been forced to make to support their family.

A history assignment leads him to interview George O'Sullivan, an old-timer known around Eaden for his expert knowledge of local Native American history, as well as his self-imposed isolation from the rest of the community. As the pair's friendship grows, George shares knowledge and secrets with Marcus that will change the boy's life and impact his entire family.

Bergum, a native of Winifred who now lives in San Francisco, plans to donate all profits from sales of his book to the Central Montana Foundation.



A Pretty Village Documents of Worship and Culture Change, St. Ignatius Mission, Montana 1880-1889

Zealous In All Virtues Documents of Worship and Culture Change, St. Ignatius Mission, Montana 1890-1894

Edited by Robert J. Bigart
Published 2007 by Salish Kootenai College Press, Pablo, MT

\$19.95 each, softcover

The 1880s were a decade of growth and expansion in St. Ignatius and the Catholic Mission worked as an agent of change, teaching new skills to help the Salish and Kootenai people of the newly established Flathead Indian Reservation survive in a post-buffalo economy. But those skills came at a price, as missionaries pressured tribal people to relinquish their traditions.

A Pretty Village is a collection of both published and unpublished original documents describing life at St. Ignatius Mission and the interactions between the missionaries and the tribal people. Assembled from the accounts of visiting newspapermen, government documents, letters written by missionaries, St. Ignatius church records and other sources, the book provides detailed descriptions of events that affected the Indian community.

A companion book, *Zealous in All Virtues*, reproduces written documents and historic photographs depicting life at St. Ignatius Mission from 1890-1894.

Documents, both previously published and unpublished, in this book describe the schools and the student exhibitions of song, drama, oratory and music. Though Indian reminiscences have not survived, the book includes government reports, newspaper accounts, church records, letters from missionaries and other sources.

The title, *Zealous in All Virtues*, is taken from a description of parishioners in the 1894 annual report for the St. Ignatius Mission.

Both books include photographs and drawings that add another dimension to this important historical collection.

- Crystal Stipe



Nostalgia Naturally

By Tyler C. Pedersen
Published November 2007 by AuthorHouse, Bloomington, IN

\$12.50 softcover

In his first book, Tyler C. Pedersen shares 50 poems and 28 photographs inspired by the close bond he feels with the natural world surrounding his home near the Continental Divide.

He pays homage to many denizens of the natural world, from butterflies, ants, crickets and bees, to killdeer, squirrels and "The Resolute Moose." He reflects on Italian masters in "Perugino in the Trees," and the sculpted "caffeine goddess" next to an espresso stand in "Java Queens and Pony Dreams."

Pedersen hopes his poems "help remind us of what we still have in the now and encourage us to cherish those entities that are easily taken for granted."

A native of Helena and a graduate of The University of Montana, the author is currently an AmeriCorps volunteer living in Portland, OR. This is his first book.



The Christmas Dinner Guests

By Diana Rose Rohlman
Published 2007 by AuthorHouse, Bloomington, IN

\$12.99 softcover

Mrs. Claus and Santa are preparing a Christmas dinner for some of their wintry friends. This book, with its detailed illustrations and catchy phrasing, will keep children guessing and entertained.

Young readers meet characters like Frosty the Snowman, Sparkle the Snow Angel and Old Man Winter, plus a few others, each of whom has their own special main course at dinner. Although he is not a dinner guest, Rudolph does make an appearance.

The Christmas Dinner Guests is the first of Diana Rose Rohlman's works to be published. A Montanan since 2006, she lives in the Bitterroot Valley with her husband and three daughters.

- Crystal Stipe



Road Map to Holland How I Found My Way Through My Son's First Two Years with Down Syndrome

By Jennifer Graf Groneberg
Published April 2008 by New American Library, New York, NY

\$14 softcover

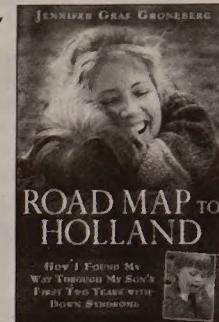
Jennifer Groneberg, reeling from the discovery that one of her premature twins has an extra 21st chromosome, finds comfort in the words of another mother, who says having a child with Down syndrome is "like planning a trip to Italy, only to get off the plane and discover you're actually in Holland." Groneberg's warm, fiercely honest book tells how she finds a road map for this country she had never planned to visit.

As Jennifer and her husband, Tom, find room in their hearts and lives for Avery, some friendships flourish, and others wither. As Avery grows and develops, his mother does the same, learning new skills for coping with his special needs, and finding deep joy in their bond.

"The most important things don't fit on any form," she discovers. "They are not quantifiable, or able to be gauged. But they count – they are the measure of love."

Groneberg lives with her husband and three young boys near Polson. This is her first book – and it's a compassionate reminder of the rough, yet infinitely rewarding terrain of parenthood.

- Kristi Niemeyer



Homeland An archaeologist's view of Yellowstone Country's past

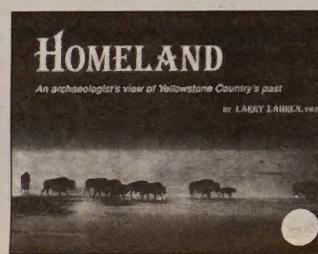
By Dr. Larry Lahren Ph.D
Published in 2006 by Cayuse Press, Livingston, MT

\$39.95 hardcover

Archaeologist Larry Lahren offers a fascinating story of an 11,500-year journey, archived in the soil of the Greater Yellowstone Region. His attractive 240-page, large-format book features 20 chapters with intriguing names like "Prehistoric Oops," as well as thousands of illustrations and photographs.

Lahren grew up in Livingston and earned a master's degree at Montana State University and a doctorate at the University of Calgary.

Lahren wrote his informative and entertaining publication with students of the land in mind – from those merely curious about the greater Yellowstone ecosystem to the serious academic searching for scientific data. The result fills an important niche in the annals of archaeological literature, according to Montana State Archaeologist Stan Wilmeth: "It is introductory. It is parsimonious. It is fast paced. First and foremost it is geared towards a general public's need to know."



The Montana Gardener's Companion An Insider's Guide to Gardening under the Big Sky

By Bob Gough and Cheryl Moore-Gough
Published 2008 by Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, CT

\$14.95 softcover

Two avid gardeners channel a combined seven decades of plant-growing expertise into this loamy book, which tackles the challenges of cultivating trees, flowers and vegetables in Montana's notoriously unpredictable climate and sundry soil types.

The book begins with "Firm Foundations," a look at the state's soil types, climate conditions and water needs. From there, the authors launch into "Green Things," a section devoted to growing lawns, vegetables, fruit, annual and perennial flowers, trees, shrubs and native plants.

Finally, they offer solutions for garden pests and other problems, and list online and print resources, plus contact information for soil surveys and testing laboratories and extension offices throughout the state.

Bob Gough is a horticulture professor at Montana State University and the author of nine gardening books, several magazine articles and 500 extension service publications. His wife, Cheryl Moore-Gough, is the MSU Extension state horticulturist and coordinates the Master Gardener Program. Both make regular appearances on the Montana PBS program, "Montana Ag Live."



Normal Like Us Stories

By Leif Peterson
Published 2008 by Booksurge, Charleston, SC

\$15 softcover

From ice fishing on a couch, to dogs that are angels and modern-day fertility rites, Leif Peterson's new collection of 14 stories paints upon a wide canvas, using every color on the palette.

Many of these stories first appeared in magazines and journals including *Montana Quarterly*, *Whitefish Review* and *Porcupine Literary Arts Magazine*.

The title story takes place at a backyard barbecue where one of the characters raises the question "What is normal?" What becomes clear in this story and the collection is that Peterson isn't concerned with norms. Instead, his stories explore the wonder and surprises that lurk in the small moments when no one seems to be noticing."

"Peterson does and can make you mourn and cherish those moments as few other writers can. Open these stories carefully; they'll catch you like a Venus flytrap," writes Paul Willis, professor of English at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA.

Peterson, who lives, writes and raises pheasants in Whitefish, is the author of the novel *Catherine Wheels*, published in 2005 by Random House.



Poets & Writers Online

Poets & Writers Online (www.pw.org) is an extensive website, sponsored by Poets & Writers Magazine, that offers a variety of resources to writers, including a free online newsletter; and links to literary magazines, small presses, and grants and awards.

Register for "Speakeasy" and join conversations about agents, MFA programs, novel writing, poetry and much more. Many of the listings from one of P&W's most popular books, *A Directory of American Poets & Fiction Writers*, are also available with search capabilities. Locate poets and fiction writers; use the search engine to list writers by agent or publisher; or discover where other writers have been published.

7

**State of
the Arts
welcomes
CDs**

State of the Arts welcomes CD submissions by Montana musicians for inclusion in the About Music section. The recordings must be professional, commercially available, full-length CDs, with cover art and liner notes. Brief biographical information on band members would be helpful to the writer.

Please send submissions to either the Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT, 59620; or Lively Times, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824.

Tim Montana: Iron Horse

Recorded at the Tool Shed and produced by Johnny Hiland and Jim Lightman at Lightman's home studio in Nashville, TN, 2007

Kalispell native and Butte boy Tim Montana, aka Tim Pasquinzo, has put out a debut CD with all the trimmings. Featuring eye-popping instrumental backup from terrific Music City pickers and 10 of Tim's original songs, the album is pure Nashville.

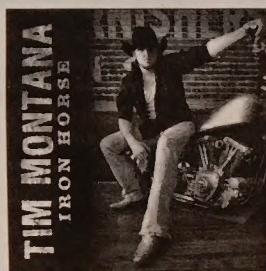
Montana recently moved there after meeting one of his heroes, guitarist and producer extraordinaire Johnny Hiland. Flawless production is the norm for Hiland, whose stamp is all over the album.

From the first pedal steel notes of "Butte America" to the lightning jitterbugger "Country Life," Montana and his supple baritone pipes sing their way through all-things country. Dog howls open the Bob Wills-styled "I'm Gone," about a guy who chooses to keep his dog over his girlfriend's objections; murderous guitar and pedal steel runs gas up the chuggin' "Carhartt Cowboy"; and "Ain't It Funny" is a belt-buckle-shiner about life and its constant changes.

It's off to the races with "Roll Them Dice," about gambling on a future in music. The tough country rocker, "That's My Girl," features terrific instrumental hooks of guitar and fiddle, and the finale, "Country Life," gets the full Butte treatment: 30 below zero and a Hot-Rod Lincoln-style, with its beer drinkin', pickup-drivin', rifle-plinkin' spirit.

Montana has a paying gig making music at a Nashville hotspot – no mean feat. He seems determined to succeed in the music business, and with this effort and his fabled music contacts, he may well just do that. Visit him at www.timmontana.com.

— Mariss McTucker



Footnotes: HMDSS Young Songwriters Volume I

Recorded by Gil Stober at Peak Recording and Sound, mixed and mastered by Chris Cunningham and produced by Jake Fleming, mostly at Basecamp Recording, Bozeman, MT, 2007

Footnotes is the long-awaited compilation of songs by 10 songwriters ages 10-18 who participated in the Gallatin Valley's first Hand Me Down Some Silver (HMDSS) Young Songwriters Competition held last spring. The CD showcases voices and instruments in various styles of music, from rock to pop and jazz to country.

After four judges from the Bozeman music community winnowed the top five selections in both vocal and instrumental categories from 30 entries, HMDSS booked two studios and hired a host of local professional musicians to record with the songwriters. Tracks were recorded in just two days; production values are superb, and there was a pro photo shoot, to boot.

Nineteen-year-old Darah Fogarty starts it off by singing her own "Workin' It Out," a



slow-rockin' tune about learning to roll with the punches; guitarist Wyatt Holmes, age 14, follows with his pop-rock instrumental, "Sunrise"; and the laid-back country number, "That's Just Me," features the vocals of Morgan Leachman, 18.

Then we have "The 'W' Song" from 16-year-old Kyle Gaffney, who plays his alto sax on this jazz-rock effort. "Longing" is a lush instrumental ballad from 15-year-old guitar player Meghan Nolt, and "Movin' On" is a bittersweet love song from pianist/singer Megan Makeever, 16.

"Extinction" is hard on its heels, a syncopated brew of changing tempos from alto sax player Tyler Eide, 15. Courtney Yovich sings her rock ballad "Pay It Forward," inspired by the same-named movie. She's 10. The infectious, slightly dark instrumental "Therapy," from 13-year-old alto saxophonist Matt Powell Palm, percolates with bubbly bass in Latin-jazz style, and finally, Katie Weaver, 17, sings her ballad "Beautiful People."

Liner notes say the project was intended not only to allow an avenue of expression for young composers, but also to bring together members of the community's flourishing professional music industry to share their experience and expertise with young musicians. The collaboration led to another gratifying result—the realization that a new generation of musicians has a lot of talent and can proceed to share it, now that they've learned some of the nuts and bolts of the business.

— Mariss McTucker

Alex Swaney and Heath Watts: 2x

Recorded by Dory Ritrovato at Ghetto Recording in Butte, mixed and mastered by Dory Ritrovato and Heath Watts, 2007

It takes truly talented musicians to tackle improvisational jazz, and pianist Alex Swaney and soprano saxophonist Heath Watts thrive on it.

Helena native Swaney studied piano as a young woman on the way to a degree in anthropology (*State of the Arts* readers may remember her as the recently retired folklife specialist for the Montana Arts Council). She soaked up compositions by Darius Milhaud, for one, and saw Thelonious Monk and John Coltrane perform at clubs. She also played in jazz and blues groups and was inspired to study jazz composition.

Watts, born in Butte but calling Philadelphia his home now, plays with New York City greats Matt Lavelle, bass clarinetist, and bassist Grancious Grillot, among others. Swaney and Watts believe that "spontaneity of sound produces a kind of primal energy that is unique and stimulating for both performers and listeners." This collaboration certainly makes that evident.

The song titles read like a poem. Aided by her Kawai keyboard, Swaney creates sonic backdrops that move from xylophones and marimbas to grand pianos and back, while Watts flutters and squawks effortlessly in contrasting yet complementary lead lines.

They clash, they harmonize. Ethereal leads of the opener, "The Beginning of One is Two," march stridently into some kind of quest on "Signs Are Missing"; "From the Void" speaks radio blips from space, chaotic then peaceful.

Swaney motors through rockin' bass riffs

and Watts flies high on the Latin-jazz nuances of "Everytime We Need It." And on "It Is Here," with its music box motifs, the two play as if they're on different planets that suddenly share trajectories.

Segue to the screaming, ranting, tumbling cacophony of "Or Maybe Not," and bask in the gorgeous sonata of sound in "Trying to Tell Us." It trips lightly, then abruptly shifts to finger-poppin' rhythm and the call-and-response teasing of who-gets-the-last word. Fun!

Next comes the leisurely sleepwalker, "Something or Nothing." Slowly ambulating, Swaney's chords go up and down and around, while Watts's sax meanders sweetly, cloaked in arpeggios, till he suddenly decides his instrument is a snake-charmer vocalist with a heck of a lot to say. Delightfully inventive!

Hear "From Silence," a hypnotic concerto, maybe, with Swaney's expressive keyboard work. Then what? Thumb pianos and fluttering birds and jungle ambience ("From Sound"). We end with the carnival whimsy of "To Always."

There's a platter full of ideas here, played by two masters who know the rules and delight in breaking them. Great production values from Ritrovato and his studio, too. Open up your ears for this one.

— Mariss McTucker

Dave Walker: Walking Underwater

Recorded at Peak Recording Studio in Bozeman, MT, and produced by Dave Walker, Gil Stober, and Robert Britten in 2007

Not just anyone can say he opened for the Beatles before they were famous, but Dave Walker can.

The veteran British guitarist and singer (of Virginia City) and many of his fellow musicians were drawn to American blues music for its authenticity and focus on the poor working class. Soon after his teen band days, "The Voice" hit the road. He did stints with many groups, notably as lead singer for Savoy Brown, and most recently with his own Dave Walker Band.

This new effort, "Walking Underwater," distills that vast experience and seasoned delivery into a great collection of original blues tunes recorded with some of Bozeman's finest musicians.

Walker romps through up-tempo jammers and sentimental tearjerkers with Mike Gillan, drums, Craig Hall, bass, and Sheamus Conley and Jim Lewis on lead guitars. Robert Britten provides piano, guitars and organ, and co-wrote some of the songs. William O'Keeffe contributed lyrics.

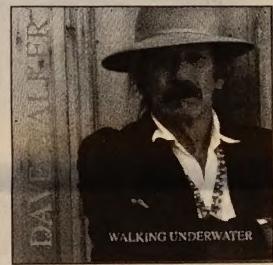
Late nights, bars, phone calls and cars provide the backdrop. Driving guitars and percussion deliver the ambience, as Walker powers his way through stories of love-struck romance and heartache. His warbly mid-range fuels the bitter-sweet "I Can Make It on My Own," with its Lyle Lovett sensibility (or maybe he's where Lyle gets it). Sweet piano introduces the apprehensive title tune, "Walking Underwater."

"Weep No More" might be my favorite. If you're a sucker for slow-motion blues tunes full of spooky minor seventh chords and wailing guitar leads, add in Walker's fine vocals and you get pretty close to perfect. Then it's back up to boogie tempo on "Black Steel Blues," about a man doing time while his wife is doing God-knows-what.

The country-laced "Blues from the Bottom" boasts novel chord progressions, a slithery guitar break, and an oddly satisfying piano ending. The last number, "Hard Headed Woman," is a good dancer with pounds of reverb and amped-up guitars. Terrific production and cool fadeouts on lots of tunes make this a great addition to any blues lover's shelf.

Visit the artist at www.aboutdavewalker.com.

— Mariss McTucker



Montana's Circle of American Masters (from page 1)

Jackie Bread, who lives in Great Falls, grew up on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning. Her interest in beading began early, watching her grandmother work with beads.

Throughout her schooling in New Mexico, beading remained an interest. She helped to develop the art of illusionary pictorial beadwork, in which pictorial depth is created by using different graduated shades of beads.

When she returned to Montana, she worked at the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning where she studied the beaded pieces housed there. Currently, traditional Plains ledger art is the basis for her beadwork, as well as Blackfeet florals and illusionary pictorials.

Bread's work has appeared in numerous exhibitions, including those at the Museum of Art and Design in New York, the Tacoma Art Museum, the Holter Museum of Art and Tulsa's Philbrook Museum. Her pieces also reside in many collections, including those of the Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, and the Montana Historical Society.

Awards also abound, and images of her beadwork have graced publications like *Southwest Art* and *Montana Magazine*. Perhaps most importantly, she has shared her knowledge generously, giving many workshops and lectures throughout Montana and in Idaho and California.

Edward Caffrey, who also lives in Great Falls, began his knife-making career when he was 12 years old. He and his best friend worked on farms and saved money to buy new knives for trapping season. However, when they used their new knives, they discovered the blades needed repeated sharpening.

From that point, the search was on for a better knife. While in the Air Force, Caffrey continued to try to fabricate a better blade. He met his first two mentors, joined the American Bladesmith Society, and began forging in earnest. In 1994, he received his ABS Journeyman Smith stamp and in 2000 became one of 111 ABS Master-smiths. Mosaic Damascus is his signature knife.

A skillful teacher of blade-smithing, Caffrey shares his knowledge at hammer-ins and during one-on-one classes in his shop. He has taught throughout the U.S., Europe and Canada, and his work has appeared in *Blade* magazine, *Knives Illustrated*, *Knives Annual*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Contemporary Blacksmith*. He judges at both the Journeyman Smith and Mastersmith levels for the American Bladesmith Society and was the co-founder of the Montana Knifemakers' Association.



Beaded box by Jackie Bread

in different woods and making bowls. He doesn't use a computer or paper to create his designs – they come to him while he is on the tractor farming.

This self-taught artist was the woodworking leader for the local 4-H club and has helped area high-school shop students with their woodworking projects. He has lectured about his art, was an early supporter of Hands of Harvest North Central Montana Craft Heritage Trails, and donates pieces of his work to local charities and fundraisers.

His art has been featured in at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art and Gallery 16 in Great Falls, and won Best of Show at the Montana State Fair. His work has been written about in numerous publications, including the *Great Falls Tribune* and *Aurora*, *Cowboys and Indians* and *Crafts Report* magazines.

Al Chandler Goodstrike, an enrolled member of the White Clay People and a resident of Hays, is known for his tipi and hide painting, as well as his rawhide shields, rattles, parfleche bags and drums.

As a boy, he was sent to an Indian boarding school in South Dakota where he learned hide tanning.

When he returned to Fort Belknap, he devoted himself to the traditional arts fulltime.

He works almost exclusively with elk and buffalo hides, preparing them by cleaning, shaping and sometimes tanning them. When they are ready, he then paints them with natural earth paints and a bone brush.

He has participated in the Montana Arts Council's Artists in the Schools and Communities Program, as well as received a Folk and Traditional Arts Program fellowship to teach drum making to young students.



Fossil bowie knife by Edward Caffrey

NEA as this paper goes to press, but we have been told we did "very, very well." As we work closely with many states throughout the country, I think it's important that everyone in Montana know that your state arts council is working very hard to build upon its reputation as a leader and innovator, and the review of our NEA proposal was music to our ears.

Thanks to NEA staffers

In closing this month, I'd also like to take a moment to thank the two NEA staff members in charge of programs for state arts councils: John Ostrout, States Program Director, and Andi Mathis, deputy director of the same area. NEA Chairman Dana Gioia and Deputy Director Eileen Mason also deserve an enormous vote of confidence and thanks for their real understanding of the critical role state arts councils play



Wooden bowls by Richard Charlson

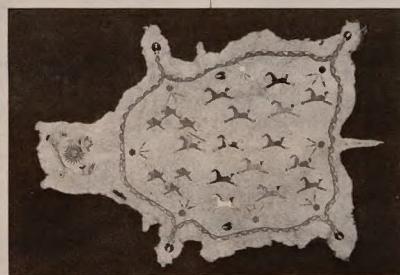
Knits, Spin-off, PieceWork and Handwoven magazines.

Within the fiber community, she is an icon, with her work appearing in both private and public collections. She has taught classes throughout the United States and Canada, including at the Joseph Campbell Folk School.

The many individuals who have learned from her report that she teaches with depth of knowledge, patience, practice, creative informality, personal and historical perspective, great humor and a lot of hands-on expertise that demystifies the process. She has a special love for primitive breeds of sheep and bison, and her one-on-one help has aided fiber producers from Montana to Mongolia in the task of improving their flocks.

The traditional artists honored by inclusion in Montana's Circle of American Masters will be inducted at a special ceremony. They will have the opportunity to teach their art through demonstrations and workshops, to participate in events like the National Folk Festival in Butte and to share their knowledge and work on the MAC website.

In addition to acknowledgement through interviews, they will gain state and national exposure by having their work photographically recorded and included in a catalogue and possibly an exhibition.



Hide painting by Al Chandler Goodstrike

across the nation, and how we are uniquely poised to be such fine partners with the NEA in achieving common goals that enrich us all.

We are also delighted that state arts councils now have their own deputy director at the NEA, a woman whom many of you know in Montana – Patrice Powell. We are thrilled to have her at that helm, and thank her, John and Andi for the fabulous work they do.

Many people think of any federal agency as a bureaucratic behemoth. I can tell you that there is nothing further from the truth when it comes to how the NEA works with state arts councils. They listen to us, they have our priorities constantly in mind, and they have shown flexibility that we think is a model for how governments can best work together to create maximum public value with minimum red tape.

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Nominations welcome for American Masters program

For inclusion in Montana's Circle of American Masters, which is made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, an individual must be a practicing folk artist with a valid Montana address. This honor is not made posthumously and is made to an individual, not to a group.

Any Montanan who wants to recommend an eligible artist is encouraged to visit the MAC website (www.art.mt.gov) and download the guidelines and nomination form.

Recommendations and supporting information are gathered year-round, and there is no application deadline. When the registration form is completed, it is submitted for review in the respective field of the nominee, with the Montana Arts Council acting on that recommendation.

For more information about the program or for help in the nomination process, contact either Cindy Kittredge, Folk Arts and market specialist, at 406-468-4078 or cindyc@dishmail.net, or Dyani Bingham, Indian arts market development manager, at 406-545-8983 or dyani_b@hotmail.com.

Arni's Addendum (from page 2)

plan as an electronic file on the NASAA website so that everyone can access it. They stated that MAC's plan and format should be emulated.

One panelist called the agency "strategically agile," commenting on the way our programs relate to the plan and how we respond to needs in the state. Perhaps MAC's favorite comment was, "We need to confront a 'fostering jealousy' attitude in NEA policy discussions," because panelists wanted to be encouraged to formally steal MAC's good ideas and materials. (We had to laugh!) Others talked about how they have been using Montana's publications throughout the years.

All in all, the grant review was a real thrill – we heard no negative comments on our application from any of the panelists, about which we are enormously proud.

We are awaiting final numbers from the

Arts Education

Poetry Out Loud Hellgate senior to recite works at national finals

10

Rimrock tours anti-meth show

When Rimrock Opera was chosen as one of four nonprofits to compete for a \$5,000 prize in Oprah's Big Give Billings, Douglas Nagel knew exactly what he would do with Oprah's money.

The opera company's general director had already pledged to follow a successful Montana tour of the musical comedy, "The Night Harry Stopped Smoking," with a new show aimed at delivering a creative anti-methamphetamine message. The grand prize in Oprah's Big Give would provide the seed money to set the project in motion.

The new show, titled "American Opera Idol," follows the format of the popular TV series with a similar name. The professional touring cast will perform Broadway and opera songs in the role of "contestants," with additional "contestants" and "judges" from each school taking part.

Along with a dynamic show, a serious message unfolds as one of the contestants reveals a meth addiction problem, and seeks help. Study guides provided in advance aid teachers in preparing students.

For more details, visit www.rimrockopera.org.

By Rob Chaney
Reprinted with permission
from the *Missoulian*

Poetry gives wings to words.

And Amber Greymorning will ride them all the way to Washington, DC. Her grace and skill with memorized poetry earned the Hellgate High School senior a trip to the capital next month to compete in the national Poetry Out Loud finals.

Poetry Out Loud came about two years ago through the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Its intent: to help students "master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage," according to the organization's website.

Last year, more than 100,000 students across the country competed.

Each contestant must deliver three poems. Greymorning chose Edgar Allan Poe's "Annabel Lee," Lord Byron's "The Destruction of Sennacherib" and Sherman Alexie's "The Powwow at the End of the World."

"Annabel Lee" was Greymorning's favorite. She liked Poe's passion and the almost pretty description of an otherwise depressing elegy to a man's lost love. "Sennacherib" attracted her by its ferocity, and Byron's slashing demolition of the lead character's lofty principedom.

But Alexie's poem spoke to her Native pride, and the ability to forgive in spite of injury. It also won her the state competition. Hellgate English teacher Shaun Gant said Greymorning waited until the final round to deliver it; the judges were wowed.

"Dramatic reading is done without costumes or overly done gestures, just your voice," Gant said. "The kids become the voice of the poem. They put themselves out there. Amber just gives you these poems, and you're just there with her."

Speakers get judged on their stage presence, interpretation and the variety of techniques they use to deliver their poems. Greymorning said she looked for the "vocal color" she could draw out of the words, trying at times to "taste" them as much as pronounce them.

"I listen to a lot of jazz," she said of her training regimen. Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra taught her — well — how to deliver a memorable line.

Greymorning is no stranger to performance. She's acted in Hellgate's drama productions and placed third at state last month in her first year in the duo interpretation event with classmate David Preston. She also plays French horn and sings soprano in Hellgate's music ensembles.

"Performing is my life," she joked. Nevertheless, the ability to deliver a memorized



Winners of this year's contest were State Champion Amber Greymorning; second place, Mike Zarling; and third place, Katie Merritt.

poem convincingly and with compelling force drew on all those experiences. She succeeded over 24 other competitors in Helena. But the national finals feature 51 state winners, some of whom tested their ability through many more rounds and forums.

At Hellgate, 650 students participated in the preliminary rounds. Gant said the exercise has had lasting impact. Many students became so enthralled with their poetry choices, their teachers have been able to build more complex lessons in literary structure and analysis into the effort.

"And they have to stand up in front of people and be



Margaret Belisle makes the Montana Arts Council's Poetry Out Loud program a reality for high school students across the state.

judged by how well their memory works under pressure," Gant said. "We see value in that. It meets lots of standards. And it's fun."

Hellgate classmate Beth Cooper-Chrismon took first place while Greymorning placed second. The young women supported one another through the Helena rounds, even though the places were flipped: Cooper-Chrismon made it to the semifinals while Greymorning collected the top prize.

This year's national finals have \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends at stake. The competition takes place April 28-29 in Washington, DC.

One little-noticed result of Greymorning's win was the \$500 she gets to spend on a poetry collection for Hellgate's library. She's working with the school

librarians and English teachers on recommendations. Given the relatively bare shelves, the options are wide open.

"I like it that I've left a legacy," Greymorning said. "I hope other people will be able to step up in future years. Right now, I know we need more Dr. Seuss. He's my favorite."

Web of poetry

Check out Poetry Out Loud's library of famous poets and other resources at www.poetryoutloud.org. Amber Greymorning can be heard presenting Arapaho stories in the original language at www.nsilc.org.



Poetry Out Loud Montana semi-finalists each read poems at the state finals, March 8 in Helena. Participants were (left to right): front row: Andrea Alfson, Fairfield High, Katie Merritt, Butte High, and Lucinda Selvidge, Sheridan High; second row: Alison Christensen, Flathead High, and Shawn Wentz, James Ira Robison and Enrik Mulla, all of Luster Christian High; third row: Jeremiah Dawson, Sweet Grass High, Jana Barros and Riley Griffin (master of ceremony) of Helena High, and Gwendolyn Dodge, Harlowton High. Standing in the back row are: Jamie Winter and Lindsey Sands, Billings Senior High; Jackie McKenney, Sweet Grass High; Katherine Sizemore, North Star High; Lindsey Appell, Roundup High; Courtney Kent, Harlowton High; Caroline Wing Houser, Flathead High; Mike Zarling, Helena High; Kristen Wickstrom, Sheridan High; Amber Greymorning and Beth Cooper-Chrismon, Hellgate High; Josh Lybeck, North Star High; Anne Flowers, Choteau High; Tennison Coughlin, Belt High; and Tianna Thomas, Choteau High.



Judges for the final round were Montana Poet Laureate Greg Pape, Stevensville; Kalispell poet Lowell Jaeger; Carroll College theatre professor Dorothy Harper; and poet, writer and Montana Arts Council member Rick Newby, of Helena.

All photos by Cheri Thornton, Two Moon Photography

Arts Education

Ornaments sought to adorn Capitol Christmas Tree

Montana has been asked to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree, which will be displayed in Washington, DC, throughout the 2008 Christmas season. In addition to providing the tree that will serve as the holiday centerpiece on the Capitol Lawn, 5,000 handmade ornaments will be needed to adorn the tree.

Everyone is invited to participate – school classes, Scout troops, 4-H clubs, art centers, civic organizations and all other interested youth and adult groups.

The Montana Arts Council commissioned four ornament lesson plans from Montana teaching artists Leslie Fontana and Cheryl Bannes. The lessons are easy, fun and use inexpensive or free materials and the results are gorgeous.

Student ornaments from schools are due May 1, while ornaments from youth and adult organizations are due Sept. 30. Ship ornaments to: Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest, 1801 N. 1st Street, Hamilton, MT 59840.

The complete information sheet and the lesson plans can be downloaded from the arts council's website: art.mt.gov/schools/schools_tree.asp. For more information about the project, visit www.capitolchristmastree2008.org.

The poem about the Capitol Christmas Tree at right was written by Montana Poet Laureate Greg Pape:

"For the Traveling Tree from the Bitterroot"

By Greg Pape, Montana Poet Laureate

In Montana or far away in Washington D.C.
what is a tree but a witness to time
and wind with its own way of weathering?

We cut them down and turn them into walls
to keep out wind, something to hang our hopes on
in Montana or far away in Washington D.C.

Once a year we bring one inside
to smell the fragrance of the mountains
and remember the forest's way of weathering.
We hang our hopes on the tree,
sing to it, pray to it, and it almost seems to listen
in Washington D.C. or far away in Montana.

At night by the lights we hung on the tree
someone will look long at bells, stars, glass
ornaments glittering, and remember ways of weathering,

how the year waits to be reborn,
how our hopes sometimes shine in the dark
like frost or snow on tree limbs weathering

Young Crow student discovers the "shapes of thoughts"

The Montana Arts Council asks organizations that receive state funding to share stories that convey the return on that investment. Here's one such story from the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings:

The Yellowstone Art Museum has many stories of its successes. It is very easy to list the numbers of exhibitions, the attendance at special events, the number of donations and other facts and figures.

However, the greatest success of the museum isn't necessarily in the raw data but in the individual lives that are touched through our work, especially the YAM's educational outreach programs. The following is a description of just one child who has participated in our school outreach program, among hundreds of inspirational stories that we can share from the participants in our programs.

A fifth-grade student at Crow Agency, who has been blind from birth, with the individual help from his full-time teacher, Lois Rides Horse, participated in the classroom with the other students during art sessions.

He was given the same opportunities as the



Mask was created by a fifth-grade student at Crow Agency.

other students with added tactile experiences. He enjoyed being included with the students, gaining their respect when he participated in the classroom discussions of such topics as the

temperature of color and emotional responses to the mask-making project. He enjoyed writing about art in Braille and loved sharing with the other students.

When the class drew their self-portraits, he formed his in clay. The exercise proved to be an excellent study in self-awareness. He paid much attention to every detail of his face, including eyeballs and tongue. He was proud of his creation and entered it in the Crow Indian Days Arts and Crafts Show, where he received a cash award for first place in sculpture.

Each student wrote a story about their mask to accompany the assignment. He typed his in Braille and submitted it. His story follows:

"My Face"

My face has a nose, a mouth, eyes, cheeks and a heart over the lips. I made it even though I can't see. The elk teeth block everything. I can see with my hands, even my ears.

There are different shapes of thoughts all over my face. My favorite is the heart over the lips. I have to talk nice. The feathers are dancing on my head.

Arts in Education Hotline

The Montana Arts Council has a toll-free hotline for Arts in Education. Sponsors wishing to apply for grant support for the Artists in Schools and Communities program can call 800-282-3092 for answers to their questions.

The Montana Arts Council will assist callers with project design and application procedures. It can also offer advice on other matters in the area of arts and education and community residencies.

The Artist Registry at art.mt.gov offers an easy way to match artists with community and school interests.

Students from throughout state compete in POL finals

Twenty-four high school students from across the state met in Helena March 8 for the state finals of Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest. Enrik Mulla, an exchange student from Albania attending Luster Christian High, was an international guest.

Poetry Out Loud was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation and produced in Montana by the Montana Arts Council. Beginning at the classroom level, winners advance to school-wide competition, then to the state competition, and ultimately to the national finals.

Amber Greymorning, Montana 2008 Poetry Out Loud champion, will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC, for the national finals on

April 27-29. Hellgate High received a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. Mike Zarling, second-place winner, will receive \$100, with \$200 for Helena High library to purchase poetry books.

This year, Cassin LaFountaine, the first Montana Poetry Out Loud champion, Great Falls poet Mark Mathison and drama teacher Linda Piccolo of Jefferson High in Boulder judged the semi-final round. Judges for the final round were Montana Poet Laureate Greg Pape, poet Lowell Jaeger, Carroll College theatre professor Dorothy Harper, and poet, writer and Montana Arts Council member Rick Newby.

For more information about the Poetry Out Loud contest in Montana please contact Margaret Belisle, Poetry Out Loud manager, mbelisle@helena.k12.mt.us, 406-324-2305 (school) or 406-439-6443 (cell).



The contest's top eight finalists were: front row: Kristen Wickstrom, Sheridan High; Amber Greymorning, Hellgate High; and Katie Merritt, Butte High; back row: Tianna Thomas and Anne Flowers, Choteau High; Mike Zarling and Jane Barros, Helena High; and Alison Christensen, Flathead High. (Wickstrom, Greymorning, Merritt, Flowers and Zarling were the top five finalists.)

2008 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

Honorees fêted at Hometown Celebrations

By Cinda Holt

Governor's Arts Awards Producer

Mid-March delivered, along with more snow, two wonderful events for Missoulians. Three of the four 2008 Governor's Arts Awards recipients were honored at two Hometown Celebrations.

Friends and family recognized Ed Lahey March 15 at the Missoula Art Museum and Terry Conrad and Allen Vizzutti March 17 at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts. The recipients were honored not only for their talents, but also for their contribution to Montana's rich cultural landscape.

The fourth recipient, Corky Clairmont, participated in his Hometown Celebration April 18 at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo; an article and photo spread covering that event will appear in the next issue of *State of the Arts*.

Montana Ambassadors Bob Homer (Bitterroot Motors) and Faye Hanson Warren (US Bank) took up the charge to host both Missoula events, which involved managing all the entertainment, refreshments and logistics. The Montana Ambassadors, a volunteer statewide service organization that promotes economic development, has partnered with the arts council since 2000 to produce the Governor's Arts Awards.

The council is most appreciative of the contributions (both cash and in-kind) made by the Montana Ambassadors. Their participation makes it possible to carry the Governor's Arts Awards festivities beyond the Helena Capitol ceremony that took place in February.

Ed Lahey

The Missoula Art Museum was the perfect place to kick off the 2008 Hometown Celebrations with a lovely event for poet Ed Lahey.

A highlight was a magnificent testimonial by fellow Butteian Pat Williams, who shared childhood memories of growing up in the rough mining town. Pat paid Ed the highest compliment, saying Ed's poems not only made his memories' images come alive, but brought back the sounds and smells of that time as well.

Ed wrapped up the gathering by reading many of his favored poems. MAM Executive Director Laura Millin, who envisioned using the mezzanine balcony as a "pulpit" for artists (worthy of any Shakespearian balcony scenario), set Ed up with a mic and chair, and he proceeded to "hold court." Hearing the poet's voice pour out over the space was indeed a highlight.

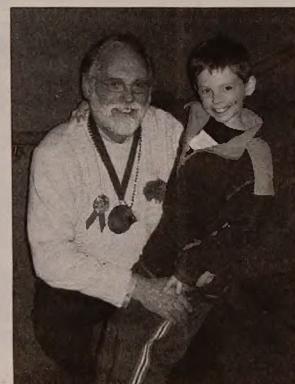
Terry Conrad & Allen Vizzutti

St. Patrick's Day brought the second gathering, at MCT Center for the Performing Arts. Montana Public Radio (KUFM) station manager/producer Terry Conrad, and renowned trumpet player Allen Vizzutti were the guests of honor.

As guests entered the lobby, David Morgenroth treated them to beautiful piano music. A highlight of the presentation was when virtuoso Vizzutti played a fantastic piece on his trumpet (while rotating his instrument 360 degrees!). William Marcus paid tribute to Terry Conrad's

Celebration of Terry Conrad

& Allen Vizzutti: March 17 at MCT Center for the Performing Arts



Honoree Terry Conrad and his grandson Graham Conrad Martin



The lobby of MCT Center for the Performing Arts



David Morgenroth and Barbara Koostra



Lance Boyd (second from left) and friends



Lido Vizzutti, Ethyl Lyman and Charles Johnson



Past Governor's Arts Awards honorees David Nelson and Jo-Anne Musselman

vast knowledge of and passion for jazz, and his significant contribution to all his listeners' music education.

Not to be outdone by the governor, Terry's grandson, Graham Conrad Martin, created his own medallion for grandpa — who sported it proudly and referred to it as his "bling" (along with his bronze medallion and a big green shamrock).

It really is a pleasure to produce the Hometown Celebrations as part of the Governor's Arts Awards. Celebrating in the honorees' hometown permits many folks to offer their congratulations to the artists.

Thank you to all the people who shared their stories and congratulations during the presentations: Laura Millin, Pat Williams, Lance Boyd, William Marcus and Montana Ambassadors Bill

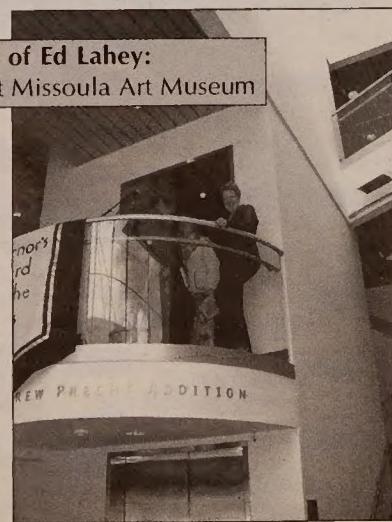
Johnston, Fay Hanson Warren and Bob Homer. And a hearty thanks goes to KUFM and media artist Alison Perkins, who produced the wonderful media profiles and the broadcast of the honorees.

Thank you also to the major sponsors for the two events: Mountain Water Company, Ten Spoon — A Montana Vineyard and Winery, Big Sky Brewing, Bitterroot Motors and US Bank. Additional sponsors included: Bank of Montana, Barbara Koostra and David Morgenroth, The Bookstore, Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival Committee, Montana First Credit Union, Payne Financial Group, Smurfit-Stone Container Corp and The University of Montana Alumni Association.



Celebration of Ed Lahey:
March 15 at Missoula Art Museum

Photo at left:
Writers Swain
Wolfe, Ed
Lahey, Rick
DeMarinis



Laura Millin preparing for Ed Lahey's balcony debut (above) and guests listening as Ed recites his poetry (left).



MAC Executive Director Arni Fishbaugh and Pat Williams



Montana Ambassador hosts Bob Homer and Faye Hanson Warren

ART AUCTION ACTION

Russell Auction sets all new records

The 40th annual C.M. Russell Auction, held March 14-15 in Great Falls, eclipsed last year's record \$2.4 million weekend with sales of \$2,972,400.

Highlights of this year's auction included a single-night auction record of \$2,052,750 on Saturday night, smashing last year's \$1.46 million record. Saturday night's record was set in motion with the sale of Russell's "Robbing the Eagle's Nest," which went for \$300,000, topping the previous high for a Russell painting of \$240,000, set in 2002.

Andy Thomas, who received the Juror's Best of Show Award for his oil painting titled "Charlie Russell and His Characters," sold his piece for \$180,000, which is the highest price ever paid for a piece of art at the auction by any artist other than Russell.

Martin Grelle, one of this year's honored guest artists, sold his oil painting titled "Crows on the Yellowstone" for a healthy \$150,000. Grelle's painting also took top honors during Friday night's Quick Draw, selling for \$18,000.

Friday and Saturday's Quick Draw competitions generated a record of more \$100,000, pushing the event's 31-year-total donation to over \$1,000,000, with 100 percent of those proceeds going directly to the C.M. Russell Museum.



"Robbing the Eagle's Nest" by C.M. Russell brought top dollar at the Russell Auction.

Havre, for "Motley Crew";

• People's Choice Award (Sculpture) – Christy Daniels, Frenchtown, for "Crossing, See You on the Other Side"; and

• Bob Scriver Award – Bruce Brock, auctioneer from LeMars, IA.

Since its inception 40 years ago, the Great Falls Advertising Federation, which organizes the event, has donated over \$5,000,000 to the Russell Museum. Next year's auction is scheduled for March 18-21 at the Heritage Inn.

Top honors for Saturday night's Quick Draw went to Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey for a dye-on-silk piece titled "Camas Prairie Moon," which went for \$9,500. Andy Thomas, who won this year's Juror's Best of Show Award, brought in \$9,000 for his painting of an Indian on horseback hunting buffalo; and Shawn Cameron, the other honored guest artist for this year's auction, brought in \$8,000 for her Quick Draw titled "Reminiscing."

Auction awards went to:

- Ralph "Tuffy" Berg Award – Elizabeth Pruitt, Olathe, KS, for her oil painting "Jade Jar and Oranges";

- C.M. Russell Museum CEO Award – Laurie Stevens, Cascade, for her oil painting "Little Star";

- Juror's Best of Show – Andy Thomas, Carthage, MS, for his oil painting "Charlie Russell and His Characters";

- People's Choice Award (Painting) – Kristi Billmayer,

Havre, for "Motley Crew";

- People's Choice Award (Sculpture) – Christy Daniels, Frenchtown, for "Crossing, See You on the Other Side"; and

- Bob Scriver Award – Bruce Brock, auctioneer from LeMars, IA.

Since its inception 40 years ago, the Great Falls Advertising Federation, which organizes the event, has donated over \$5,000,000 to the Russell Museum. Next year's auction is scheduled for March 18-21 at the Heritage Inn.

MAM auction nets nearly \$130,000

The Missoula Art Museum's 36th Benefit Art Auction, held Feb. 2, netted \$129,897, nearly 17 percent of the museum's annual budget. This will subsidize more than 25 contemporary art exhibitions and accompanying programming in 2008. Additionally, the art auction, along with MAM membership, allows the museum to maintain free admission all year.

Donations to Fund-A-Dream, which totaled an impressive \$13,400, will be devoted to MAM's new teen initiative that seeks to engage



The Missoula Art Museum auction exhibit offered a wide sampling of artworks.

Missoula teens through open studio sessions, the development of a teen art guide group and outreach efforts into area high schools.

The two-tiered event began with an Artini Auction at the museum, held two weeks prior to the gala auction at the Hilton Garden Inn. The Artini Auction is designed to encourage and nurture young

collectors, or those new to collecting. This year's event netted nearly \$7,555, which will subsidize thought-provoking performances and artist lectures at the monthly Artini for the coming year.

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Sculptor Gary Bates, whose work is regularly included in the YAM auction, enjoys festivities with his wife Susan.

YAM auction celebrates Ruby anniversary

Celebrating 40 years of art auction excellence was the focus of the Yellowstone Art Museum's largest annual fundraiser, Art Auction 40, held Feb. 29 and March 1. The museum also celebrated its 10th anniversary of the new addition to the original art center and the historical county jail.

This year's two-night event attracted a combined crowd of about 850 people and posted gross sales of \$156,048; 85 artists participated, with each donating 50-100 percent of sale proceeds to the museum's programs.

Commanding the highest prices in the live auction were Ted Waddell's piece, "Lynn's Narcissus #3," which sold above value at \$16,500, and Nick Lamb's bronze sculpture, "Fire Sale Merlin," which sold above value at \$6,600 and was also the only piece of the artist's work that was salvaged from a 2007 fire that destroyed his home and studio.

The highest selling pieces in the silent auction were Jerry Cornelia's painting "Zelma figured that since you only go around once, you might as well look fabulous doing it," which sold for \$1,500, and Carol Spielman's painting, "Prairie Thunder," which sold above value at \$1,250. Among the Quick Draw artists, Sue Tirrell's sculpture brought in top dollar at \$1,320.

Friday night's Silent Auction and Beer Tasting offered 83 works of art. Saturday night's Quick Draw and Live Auction was a continued celebration of the auction's Ruby Anniversary, with large photos and backlit images of the museum's rich history.

For the first time this year, the museum offered pre-auction and live bidding on the popular website Proxibid, which attracted bidders from around the country.

Next year the auction will return to a one-day event, slated for March 7, 2009. For more information, call the museum at 406-256-6804.

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Murals on display at IWFF

A unique collaboration between an artist and a nonprofit organization brings wildlife art to public audiences while also raising funds for Missoula Medical Aid and Doctors Without Borders.

The International Wildlife Media Center, host of the annual International Wildlife and Montana CINE film festivals, recently announced that Missoula artist Sally Hickman has donated eight original wildlife murals to the center's headquarters at the Roxy Theater. Works will be displayed beginning May 2, with proceeds from sales going to Missoula Medical Aid and Doctors Without Borders, at the wishes of the artist.

Hickman, whose artwork focuses on wildlife and the ecosystems she has visited in her global travels, says she is donating her wildlife murals as a way of giving back "in a personal way while attempting to use my talent and vision as an artist to try to make the world a better place."

Each of the eight panels depicts a different species or ecosystem the artist has visited in her travels around the world. For details, call 406-728-9380.

Show celebrates the life and work of Gennie DeWeese

A celebration of the life and work of the late artist Gennie DeWeese will be held June 20-21 at the Buck/Butterfield Ranch in Bozeman. More than 200 works of art will be on display, spanning more than 40 years of the artist's life. Many of the works will be available for sale.

The celebration begins with an opening reception, 6-10 p.m. Friday featuring music by the Missoula-based Latin band, Salsa Loca, and continues 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. The event is free and open to the public.

DeWeese was often described as the matriarch of the Montana art community. She and her husband, Robert DeWeese, moved to Bozeman in 1949 when Bob was hired to teach art at Mon-

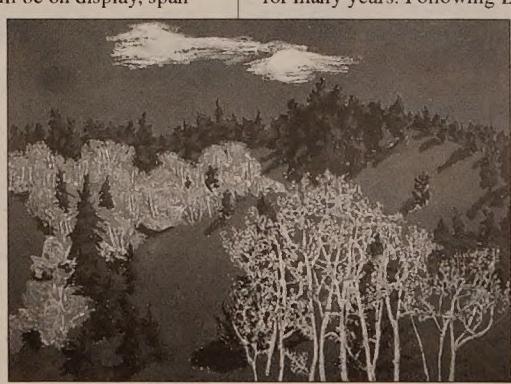
tana State College.

The DeWeeses nurtured students and friends and were a cornerstone of the Montana art scene for many years. Following Bob's death in 1990,

Gennie built a new studio and continued to produce paintings, drawings and woodblock prints, and exhibit regularly throughout the region.

In 1995 Gennie and her late husband were recognized with the Montana Governor's

Award for the Arts, and that same year Gennie was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Montana State University. In 2005, she moved to her studio to devote her energy to making her work, and she continued to paint until weeks before



"Spring" was painted in 2005 by Gennie DeWeese.



Bozeman celebration pays tribute to the life and work of Gennie DeWeese.

(Photo by Cheri Thornton)

her death in November 2008.

The exhibition this summer will include drawings, woodblock prints, and numerous paintings, including a 121-foot, 360-degree panorama of the Gallatin Valley, painted with oil sticks. It offers a tremendous opportunity to see the life's work of this important artist and to celebrate her life.

For more information, contact Tina or Josh DeWeese at 406-763-4920 or 406-431-5521.

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Absarokee

June 30

"All's Well That Ends Well" - 6:30 p.m., Fishtail Family Park, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, 406-994-3111

Anaconda

May 12

Lecture: "Who Shall Sing of the Valiant Woman?" - 1 p.m., Metcalf Senior Center, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

Arlee

May 17

Art Auction - 6 p.m. Hangin' Art Gallery, 406-726-5005

Belt

May 9-10

"Murder at the Lone Wolf Ranch" - 6:15 p.m., Belt Theater, Vigilante Theatre, 406-781-4489

Bigfork

May 3

"Boots, Brims, and Biddin' V" - 5-9 p.m., Flathead Lake Lodge, Bigfork Art and Cultural Center, 406-837-6927

May 9-11

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" - Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts, Northwest Ballet Company, 406-755-0760

May 10

Spring ArtWalk - 3-7 p.m., downtown

May 17, 23-24, 30-31, June 9, 12, 18, 21

"Murder at the Howard Johnson's" - 8 p.m., Bigfork Summer Playhouse, 406-837-4886

June 7-8

Bigfork Piecemakers Quilt Guild - Masonic Lodge, 406-837-5888

June 7, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26

"Paint Your Wagon" - 8 p.m., Bigfork Summer Playhouse, 406-837-4886

June 10, 13, 16, 19, 25, 28

"Footloose" - 8 p.m., Bigfork Summer Playhouse, 406-837-4886

June 15, 22, 29

Riverbend Concert Series - 8 p.m., Sliter Park, 406-837-4400

June 24, 27, 30

"Kiss Me Kate" - 8 p.m., Bigfork Summer Playhouse, 406-837-4886

Billings

April 30, May 1

Broadway Series: "Chicago" - 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Projectile Comedy - 8 p.m., Alley Cats in The Plaza, 406-698-6227

May 2

Art Walk - 5-9 p.m., downtown, 406-259-6563

Terry Fator - 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

May 2-3

Venture Improv - 8 p.m., Venture Theatre, 406-591-9535

May 3

Billings Symphony Derby Day - 2:30-7 p.m., Hilands Golf Club, 406-252-3610

May 7

"James and the Giant Peach" - 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

May 8-10

Spirit of the American West Art Show - 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Billings Depot, 406-652-2948

May 9

Capitol Steps - 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

May 10

Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre: "Montana" - 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

May 11

Lascivious Biddies - 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

May 15

Lecture: Brian Kahn, "American Values in Our Time" - noon-1 p.m., Western Heritage Center, 406-256-6809



Intermountain Opera celebrates 30 years of producing grand opera in Bozeman with a stellar cast performing Bizet's masterpiece, "Carmen," May 14-18.

Arts Calendar, May/June

May 16-18, 22-25, 29-31

"Jekyll and Hyde"

- Billings Studio Theatre, 406-248-1141

May 17

Big Sky Chorus - 7:30 p.m., Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

May 24

Tech N9ne and Paul Wall

- 8 p.m., Shrine Auditorium, 406-259-4384

May 29

Food for Thought, An Evening of Great Conversation - 6 p.m., Parmly Billings Library, 406-243-6022

June 5, 12, 19, 26

Alive After 5 - 5-8 p.m., downtown, 406-294-5060

June 6-8, 12-15, 19-21

"The Foursome" - Billings Studio Theatre, 406-248-1141

June 7

Country Fair - 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Moss Mansion, 406-256-5100

June 8

Festival of Cultures - 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Rocky Mountain College, 406-657-1042

Jagermeister Music Tour - 7:30 p.m., Shrine Auditorium, 406-259-4384

June 13

Montana Avenue Live: Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band - 9 p.m., Stillwater Stage at The McCormick, 406-697-6975

June 14

Strawberry Festival - 8 a.m.-5 p.m., downtown under Skypoint, Downtown Billings Association, 406-259-5454

June 22

Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale: Symphony in the Park - 7 p.m., Pioneer Park, 406-252-3610

June 27

Montana Avenue Live: David Allan Coe - 9 p.m., Stillwater Stage at The McCormick, 406-697-6975

June 27-28

Yellowstone Highland Games - ZooMontana, 406-652-3289

June 28

Alberta Bair Gala with Lily Tomlin - Alberta Bair Theater, 406-256-6052

Bozeman

May 2-3

American Indian Council Powwow - Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 406-994-4880

May 2

Junior Brown - 7:30 p.m., Gallatin County Fairgrounds Building #2, 406-586-3426

May 2-3, 9-10

The Best of Broad Comedy - 7 and 9 p.m., Equinox Theatre, 406-587-0737 ext. 1

May 4

Wilco - 8 p.m., Emerson Center, 406-586-1922

May 9-10

Sagebrush, Saddles and Spurs - Grace Bible Church, 406-587-2926

May 14, 16, 18

"Carmen" - Willson Auditorium, 406-587-2889

May 15

Carrie Underwood - 7:30 p.m., Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 800-808-5940

May 24

"All the West's A Stage" - 1, 2, and 3 p.m., Museum of the Rockies, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, 406-994-2652

June 7

Western Rendezvous - 4 p.m., Eagle Mount, 406-586-1781

June 13

Artwalk - 6-8 p.m., downtown, 406-586-4008

June 18-21

"All's Well That Ends Well" - 8 p.m., MSU-Grove, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, 406-994-3111

June 20-21

Celebrating the Life and Work of Gennie DeWeese - Buck/Butterfield Ranch, 406-763-4920

June 22-28

"Macbeth" - 8 p.m., MSU-Grove, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, 406-994-3111

Broadus

May 27

Lecture: "Handkerchiefs: The Artful Little Squares of History" - 7 p.m., United Congregational Church, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

Butte

May 2, June 6

Phantom Gallery Art Walk - 5-10 p.m., Uptown, 406-490-1311



Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre presents "Montana," the program that they will take to China prior to the Beijing Olympic Games, May 10 in Billings.

May 3

Butte-Symphony: "Memories" - 7:30 p.m., Mother Lode Theatre, 406-723-5590

May 29-June 1

"Tuck Everlasting" - Orphan Girl Theatre, 406-723-2300

June 28

Dust to Dazzle Renovation Home Tour - noon-5 p.m., six historic homes, Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization, 406-782-4394

Clancy

May 3

Lecture: Christy Leskovar, "An Irish Doughboy from Butte in the 91st 'Wild West' Division in the First World War" - 11 a.m., Jefferson County Museum, 406-933-5463

Columbus

May 31

Lecture: "Handkerchiefs: The Artful Little Squares of History" - 3 p.m., Museum of the Beartooth, 406-243-6022

Creston

May 9-12

Bibler Home and Gardens Spring Tour - Bibler Garden, 406-756-3963

Deer Lodge

June 14

Powell County Territorial Day - Main Street, 406-846-2094

Dillon

May 31

Lecture: "From the Land: Harvesting Food Plants on the Great Plains" - 2 p.m., Bannack State Park, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

June 14

Lecture: "Mark Twain in Montana" - 2 p.m., Bannack State Park, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

June 21

Lecture: "Home, Home on the Ranch" - 7 p.m., Bannack State Park, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

Ennis

June 21

Madison River Music Festival - 6 p.m., Bank Park, 406-682-4251

Fairfield

June 7

Days Gone By - 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Town Park, 406-467-2493

Fort Benton

June 27-29

Summer Celebration: Rock'n the River - various venues, 406-622-3864

Fort Peck

May 23-25, 30-June 1, June 6-8

"Smokey Joe's Cafe" - Fort Peck Summer Theatre, 406-526-9943

June 13-15, 20-22, 27-29

"Seussical" - Fort Peck Summer Theatre, 406-526-9943

Georgetown Lake

June 29

St. Timothy's Summer Music Festival: Young Artists Abby Swidler and Tess Michel - 4 p.m., St. Timothy's Chapel, 406-563-2616

Glasgow

May 10

Bonnie City Blues and Brews - 4 p.m., Cottonwood Inn, 406-228-2222

Arts Calendar, May/June

Great Falls**May 1**

Sir James Galway with the Great Falls Symphony - 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts, 406-453-4102

May 2, June 6
First Friday Artwalk - 6-9 p.m., downtown, 406-761-7156

May 3
MayFair featuring The Pointer Sisters - 8 p.m., Mansfield Theater, 406-455-5840

May 4
Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center 10th Anniversary - noon-5 p.m., Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, 406-727-8733

May 6
Lecture: Dan Gagliasso, "Joe DeYong: Protege of C.M. Russell" - 7 p.m., C.M. Russell Museum, 406-727-8787

May 8
Poetry and Prose - 7 p.m., Hastings Books' Hardback Cafe, 406-771-4374

May 11
Cascade Quartet: Symphony for Five - 2 p.m., First Congregational/Christ United Methodist Church, 406-453-4102

May 13
Cascade Quartet: Symphony for Five - 7:30 p.m., C.M. Russell Museum, 406-453-4102

May 17
"Museum Pieces" - 2 and 7:30 p.m., Mansfield Theater, 406-761-8876

May 23
Tech N9ne and Paul Wall - Montana ExpoPark, 406-727-8900

June 20
Outdoor Art Gala - 4-9:30 p.m., Elks Riverside Park, 406-791-7746

June 21
Swingin' Summer Solstice Dance - 7 p.m., C.M. Russell Museum, 406-727-8787 x330

June 27-29
Lewis and Clark Festival: "Survivor - Lewis and Clark Style" - Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, 406-727-8733

Hamilton

May 2
Catie Curtis - 8 p.m., Hamilton Performing Arts Center, 406-375-6074

May 4, 11, 18
Sunday Series - 2 p.m., Ravalli County Museum, 406-363-3338

May 5
Reading: Dr. Susan Wicklund and Alan Kesselheim - 7 p.m., Chapter One Book Store, 406-363-5220

May 10
Mother's Day Tea - 11:30 a.m., Daly Mansion, 406-363-6004 ext. 3#

June 13-15
Montana Professional Artists Association Show and Sale - Bitterroot River Inn, 406-961-3887

June 18
Reading: Jennifer Lowe-Anker - 7 p.m., Chapter One Book Store, 406-363-5220

Hardin

June 25-29
Little Big Horn Days - various venues, 406-665-1672

June 26
1876 Grand Ball - 8 p.m., Fairgrounds, 406-639-2219

June 27-29
Custer's Last Stand Reenactment - Reenactment Grounds, 406-665-3577

Havre**May 1-3**

"Divorce Southern Style" - 8 p.m., MSU-Northem Theatre, 406-265-8183

May 8

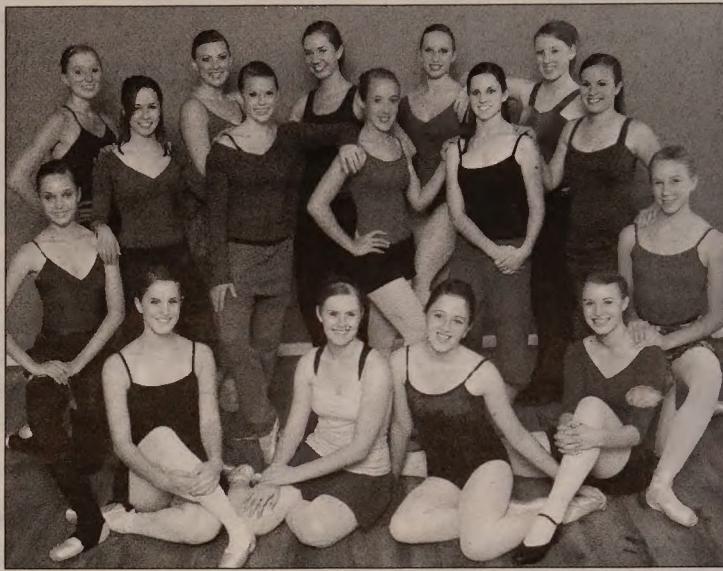
Lecture: "Islam and The West: The Historical Roots of Conflict" - 7 p.m., Havre-Hill County Library, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

June 11, 18, 25

Kicks @ 6 - 6 p.m., Town Square, Havre Area Chamber of Commerce, 406-265-4383

Helena**May 1-4, 8-10, 15-18, 22-24**

"big! the musical" - Grandstreet Theatre, 406-442-4270



Helena Chamber Singers and Premier Dance Company pair up to present their first-ever production of "Carmina Burana" as it was envisioned by its musical creator Carl Orff more than 70 years ago, May 3-4 in Helena.

Deadline for the July/August 2008 Arts Calendar is May 25, 2008

Send information (form is on page 27) to:

Lively Times

33651 Eagle Pass Tr., Charlo, MT 59824

Phone: 406-644-2910 • Fax: 406-644-2911

email: writeus@livelystimes.com

May 2-4, 9-11

"Rocky Horror Show" - Flathead Valley Community College Theatre, 406-756-3814

May 3

Death By Chocolate VII - 7-10 p.m., Conrad Mansion, 406-755-2166

Superchick - 7 p.m., Christian Center, 509-328-3288

May 10-11

Glacier Symphony and Chorale: "The Planets" - Flathead High School Auditorium, 406-257-3241

May 25

JuxtaPercussion - 4 p.m., Flathead High School Auditorium, 406-257-3241

June 6

First Friday Art Walk - 5-8 p.m., downtown, 406-752-2433

June 17-18, 24-25

Picnic in the Park Concert Series - 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Depot Park, 406-758-7717

Laurel**May 22**

Lecture: "Preservation and Community: A Sense of Place" - 7 p.m., The Crossings at St. John's Senior Center, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

May 29

Lecture: "Clothing As Art: A Crow Tradition" - 7 p.m., The Crossings at St. John's Senior Center, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

Libby**May 2-3**

Treasure Tones - 7 p.m., Memorial Center, 406-293-9643

May 9

Wylie and the Wild West - 7 p.m., Memorial Center, 406-293-9643

Livingston**May 1**

Junior Brown - 8:30 p.m., Highsides Brews and Tunes, 406-222-5400

May 13

The Rural Route Film Festival - Elks Lodge, 406-222-6510

May 9-11, 16-18, 23-25, 30-June 1

"Godspell" - Firehouse 5 Playhouse, 406-222-1420

June 19

Gallery Talk: Alfred Runte - 7 p.m., Depot Center, 406-222-2300

Lolo**May 30-31**

Love Your Mother Festival - Lolo Hot Springs, 406-531-6582

Malta**June 6-7**

Montana Dinosaur Festival and Dinosaur Road Show - various venues, 406-654-1776

June 27-29

Milk River Gospel Jamboree - High School Auditorium, 406-654-2838

Miles City**May 15-18**

Miles City Bucking Horse Sale - Fairgrounds, 406-234-2890

May 15

Trent Tomlinson - 7 p.m., fairgrounds, 406-234-2890

June 27-29

Robert Burns Celebration - various venue, 406-347-5221

(Continued on next page)



"Guit-steel" guitar wizard and multi-Grammy winner Junior Brown, a veteran of the fertile Austin music scene, is known for his fiery mix of traditional country and western, rockabilly, rock and blues. He plays in Livingston, Bozeman and Missoula in early May.

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**Opera House
Theatre
turns
10 years old**

The Opera House Theatre in Philipsburg launches its 10th year of live theatre June 26 with three plays. The season continues Thursdays-Sundays, through Aug. 31.

Keeping its tradition of featuring Montana playwrights, the Opera House will produce new plays by David Mills-Low and John Jorgensen. Both Jorgensen and Mills-Low have written for the Opera House before. In addition to authoring plays, both will be directing and taking to the stage in the upcoming season.

Mills-Low presents his Gothic western comedy "King of the Coyotes"; and Jorgensen offers "The Sweeter the Rose, the Sharper the Thorn." A generous helping of fast and funny vaudeville variety acts follow each of these shows.

The third offering is Ray Cooney's perennial favorite, "Run for Your Wife." A special reunion performance caps the season, Sept. 6-7.

For more information, call 406-859-0013 or visit www.operahousetheatre.com.



Mark Chesnutt is part of the lineup at Headwaters Country Jam, June 26-28, in Three Forks. The inaugural festival brings top-notch country entertainers to the natural outdoor amphitheater, including Collin Raye, Joe Diffie, Sammy Kershaw, Little Texas, Highway 101 and special guest David Allan Coe.

Missoula

May 1
Canoe - noon-1 p.m., UM Oval, 406-243-4488
May 1-3
Spring Dance Concert - 7:30 p.m., UM Montana Theatre, 406-243-4481
"The House of Blue Leaves" - 7:30 p.m., UM Masquer Theater, 406-243-4481

May 1
The Swell Season - 8 p.m., Wilma Theatre, 406-243-4719
May 2
First Friday Gallery Night - 5-8 p.m., downtown, 406-543-4238
May 2-4
Mother's Day Sale - Clay Studio, 406-543-0509
May 2-4, 7-11
"Seussical" - MCT Center for the Performing Arts, 406-728-PLAY
May 3
Junior Brown - 8:30 p.m., Wilma Theatre, 406-586-3426
May 3-4

Missoula Symphony: Karen Gomyo - University Theatre, 406-721-3194
Western Montana Wood Carvers Shows - Fairgrounds, 406-251-4197

May 4
NOFX - 8 p.m., Wilma Theatre, 406-728-2521, ext. 2
May 5
Wilco - 8 p.m., Adams Center, 406-243-4261
May 7-10, 13-17, 20-24
"Doubt" - Crystal Theatre, 406-327-1515
May 8
Lecture: "Understanding Wildlife Cinema" - 7 p.m., Public Library, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

May 9
Missoula Community Chorus Concert - 7:30 p.m., UM Music Recital Hall, 406-243-6880
Yard Dogs Road Show with the Indigo Belly Dancers - 8:30 p.m., Wilma Theatre, 406-586-3426

May 10-17
International Wildlife Film Festival - Wilma and Roxy theaters, 406-728-9380
May 11
Signing: Dorothy Patent - 12:30 p.m., Fact and Fiction, 406-721-2881
May 13

Lecture: Elizabeth Stone, "Macro Photography" - 7-9 p.m., Rocky Mountain School of Photography, 406-543-0171
May 14

Lecture: Ritchie Doyle, "Nature Soundscapes and Stories from the Lewis and Clark Trail" - 7 p.m., Montana Natural History Center, 406-327-0405
May 17

Potsketch 2008 Gala - 6:30-10 p.m., MCT Center for the Performing Arts, 406-543-0509
May 23-26

MisCon Science Fiction Convention - Ruby's Reserve Street Inn and Convention Center, 406-541-7829
May 29

Lecture: Leslie Van Stavern Millar, "The Story of Encaustic: History and Process" - 7 p.m., Missoula Art Museum, 406-728-0447

May 31
The Light Show - 6 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Living Art, 406-549-5329
June 4, 11, 18, 25

Out to Lunch - 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Caras Park, 406-543-4238

A rts Calendar, May/June



The Brewery Follies presents a fun-filled cabaret show, full of skits, satire and nonsense in the 19th-century atmosphere of Montana's first brewery in Virginia City. Their season runs May through August.

June 5, 12, 19, 26
Downtown Tonight - 5:30-8:30 p.m., Caras Park, 406-543-4238

June 13-14
New Zealand Days - Missoula Cultural Council, 406-532-3240

June 14-21
The Missoula Colony - 8 p.m., Montana Theatre, UM, 406-243-6809

June 17
Reading: Jennifer Lowe-Anker - 7 p.m., Fact and Fiction, 406-721-2881

June 20-21
"Quilt Show Missoula - Through a Quilter's Eye" - 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Big Sky High School, 406-542-2006

June 24
Reverend Horton Heat - 8 p.m., Wilma Theatre, 800-965-4827

Moiese

May 10
International Migratory Bird Day - Bison Range Visitor Center, 406-644-2211

May 23
National Bison Range 100th Birthday Celebration - Bison Range Visitor Center, 406-644-2211

Nevada City

May 23-26
Living History: The Gold Discovery - 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Alder Gulch, 800-829-2969

May 30-June 1, June 6-8, 13-15, 20-22
Living History Weekends - Alder Gulch, 800-829-2969

Norris

May 26
Holy Bucket Bluegrass Festival - 4-10 p.m., Norris Hot Springs, 406-685-3303

Philipsburg

June 26, 28
"King of the Coyotes" - 7 p.m., Opera House Theatre, 406-859-0013

June 27, 29
"The Sweeter the Rose, the Sharper the Thorns" - 7 p.m., Opera House Theatre, 406-859-0013

Polson

June 21
Salish Point Festival of the Lake - 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Kootenai Avenue, 406-883-2853

Poplar

June 12-14
Traditional Games Competition - Fort Peck, 406-768-7930

Red Lodge

June 21
Americana Music Fest - noon, Two Mile Bridge Road, 406-860-1902

Rexford

June 14
West Kootenai Annual Amish Auction - 9 a.m., behind Kootenai Store and Craft, 406-889-5562

Roundup

June 5-7
Dinner Theatre: "The Great Ice Cream Scheme" - 7 p.m., Central School, Roundup Drama Committee, 406-323-1403

Seeley Lake

May 4
Bill Harley - 3 p.m., Seeley Swan High School, 406-251-6966

May 24
Loon and Fish Festival - 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Community Hall, 406-793-5706

Stevensville

May 2, June 6
First Friday - 6-9 p.m., downtown, 406-777-3773
May 23-24, 30, June 1, 6-8
"The Four Poster" - Chantilly Theatre, 406-777-2722

June 13-14
Western Heritage Days Open Art Show - St. Mary's Family Center, 406-777-3773

Three Forks

June 13
Lecture: "Workers of the World Who Came to Butte" - 8 p.m., Lewis & Clark Caverns, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

June 26-28
Headwaters Country Jam - The Bridge, Jefferson River Canyon, 877-494-4841

Townsend

June 6-8
Cowboy Entertainer Gathering - Broadwater High School Auditorium, 406-266-3946

Ulm

June 21
"Living with the Land" - 7 p.m., First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, Humanities Montana, 406-243-6022

Virginia City

May 9-10, 16-17, 23-25, 28, June 1, 4-10, 11-30
The Brewery Follies - Gilbert Brewery, 406-843-5218
May 23-25, 28, June 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29
Virginia City Players - Opera House, 800-829-2969

June 14
Grand Victorian Ball of 1864 - 7:30 p.m., Virginia City Community Center, 406-682-4935

June 15
Traditional 1865 Service - 11:30 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 406-843-5296

West Yellowstone

June 8-15
"Buffalo Roam" - West Yellowstone Historic Center, 406-646-7701
West Yellowstone Centennial Celebration - various venues, 406-646-7461

White Sulphur Springs

May 9-11
"Motherin' Up" Gathering of Poets and Pickers - High School, 406-547-2210

Whitefish

May 6
Wine and Food Fest - 6-9 p.m., Grouse Mountain Lodge, 406-862-5371
May 9-11, 16-18
"School House Rock, Live! Jr." - O'Shaughnessy Center, 406-862-5371

May 28

George Ostrom DVD Launch Party - 7-9 p.m., O'Shaughnessy Center, 406-862-5371

June 15

Tropical Montana Marimba Ensemble Live CD Recording - 7:30 p.m., O'Shaughnessy Center, 406-755-8212
June 27-29
Big Sky Country Antique Fair - O'Shaughnessy Center, 406-862-0776

Zurick

May 2-4
Pickers and Fiddlers Hi-Line Rendezvous - Zurich Park, 406-353-2655

E xhibitions, May/June

Anaconda

Copper Village Museum: Nancy Dunlop Cawdry, "American Silk Road," May 15-June 15; "Fritz Scholder: Lithographs," June 16-Aug. 31; 406-563-2422

Arlee

Hangin' Art Gallery: Native American Art Auction Exhibit, through May 17; 406-726-5005

Big Timber

Hodges Fine Art Gallery: Jack Koonce, month of May; Brett Smith, month of June; 406-932-6834

Bigfork

Bigfork Museum of Art and History: Spring Show and Sale, May 2-31, reception 3-7 p.m. May 10; "Folks Next Door: Exploring Folk Art in Montana," June 6-July 5, reception 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 6; 406-837-6927

Billings

Barjon's Books: Ruhyyih Olsen, "Intimate Latitudes," opening reception 5-9 p.m. May 2; 406-252-4398

Billings Depot: Spirit of the American West Art Show, May 8-10; 406-652-2948

Flatiron Gallery: Paul Whiting, "101 Black and Whites," May 1-31, reception 5-9 p.m. May 2; Bently Spang, "A Native Comes Home," June 5-28, reception 5-9 p.m. June 6; 406-256-7791

Moss Mansion: "Here Comes the Bride," through June; 406-256-5100

Ryniker-Morrison Gallery, Rocky Mountain College: "Birds About Montana," May 15-June 7; 406-248-7494

Sandstone Gallery: William Crain and Jennifer Baretta, month of May; Gary Beeler and Victoria Franck-Wetsch, month of June; 406-256-5837

Western Heritage Center: "The Story of the 1937 Flood: Billings's Greatest Natural Disaster," May 7-June 28; "We're Making History: Billings's First 125 Years," through December; 406-256-6809

Yellowstone Art Museum: "Perpetual Motion: Paintings and Works on Paper by Jean Arnold," through June 8; Rollin Beamish and Andrew Schell,

"I'm Hunting Myself: The Unattainable Prize," through June 15; "Mostly Plains: Arresting Native American Art and Works by Charles M. Russell from the Charles M. Bair Family Collection," through June 1; "Works by Richard Swanson," June 15-Oct. 26, reception July 3; 406-256-6804

Yellowstone County Museum: "Hooves, Horns and Antlers: Wildlife on the Yellowstone," through Sept. 1; 406-256-6811

Boulder

Boulder Hot Springs: Marcy Bergmann, May 4-June 30, reception noon-2 p.m. May 4; 406-225-4339

Bozeman

Bozeman Public Library: Montana Institute of Artists Show and Sale, June 3-July 24, reception 5-8 p.m. June 6; 406-582-2400

Buck/Butterfield Ranch: Celebrating the Life and Work of Gennie DeWeese, June 20-21, 406-763-4920

Emerson Center: Stephanie Frostad, "Out of the Woods" and "American Wildlands: Children's Art Show," through June 20; "Art for Africa," through July 31; 406-587-9797

Helen E. Copeland Gallery, MSU: BFA Exhibition, April 28-May 9; 406-994-2562

Museum of the Rockies:

"Raymond Loewy: Designs for a Consumer Culture," through Sept. 28; "Minerals: The Duval Collection," through May 26; "Glow: Living Lights," through Sept. 1; "Out of This World: Extraordinary Costumes from Film and Television," June 14-Sept. 7; 406-994-2652

Browning**Museum of the Plains Indian:**

Troy DeRoche, Flutes and Flute Bags, April 27-June 12; 406-338-2230

Butte**Clark Chateau Museum:**

Butte Copper City Artists, "Montana Interpretations," June 6-July 12, reception 7-9 p.m. June 6; 406-723-7600

Main Stope Gallery: Toni Seccomb and Karen Hueftle, month of May, reception 6-9 p.m. May 2; Sallie Bowen, "Going Places," month of June, reception 6-9 p.m. June 6; 406-723-9195

Museum of Fine Arts Butte (MOFAB):

"Visions and Voices" Community Art Project, through June 8, reception 5:30-9:30 p.m. May 2; 406-723-7600

Chester

Liberty Village Arts Center: "North Light," Rob Akey, May 10-31; Nancy Greenfield, June 1-30; 406-759-5194

Colstrip

Schoolhouse History and Art Center: "It's All About Color," May 3-28; Traveling Southeastern Montana Art Show, June 1-25; 406-748-4822

Glendive**Dawson Community College Art Gallery:**

"Amazing," through May 16; Tom Temple, "Home on the Range," May 19-July 31; 406-377-3396

Great Falls**C.M. Russell Museum:**

Montana Painter's Alliance, "From Study to Studio," May 8 throughout the summer; "Your Friend CM Russell: The C.M. Russell Museum Collection of Illustrated Letters" and "Works by Three Generations of Seltzers," ongoing; 406-727-8787

Cool Beans Coffee Pub: Carl Spurgeon, "Peoples Around the World," through June 27; 406-454-8860

Gallery 16: The Mahns, "All in the Family," May 2-June 30, reception 5-9 p.m. May 2; 406-453-6103

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center: "Two Missions, One Passion," through fall, 406-727-8733

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art: Bill Drum and Carol Spielman, "Free Rein," May 30-Aug. 2 and Ad Club Scholarship



George Clooney's Batman outfit is part of the exhibit "Out of This World: Extraordinary Costumes from Film and Television," on display at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman.

June 16; 406-452-9315

Hamilton

D.A. Davidson and Co.: Steve Wilson, through the summer, reception 5:30-7:30 p.m. May 1; 406-363-0266

Frame Shop and Gallery: "Time Was ... 40 Years of Photography by Richard Paup," through June 25; Pam Caughey, June 27-Aug. 20, reception 5-8 p.m. June 27; 406-363-6684

Hardin

JailHouse Gallery: Founders' Show, month of May; "Welcome to Montana," month of June; 406-665-3239

Havre

Artitudes Gallery: Middle School Art Students, May 1-16, reception 6-8 p.m. May 9; David Waters, June 1-30, reception 6-8 p.m. June 13; 406-265-2104

Helena

Archie Bray Foundation: Jennifer Allen Farewell Exhibition, May 15-June 1, reception 6-8 p.m. May 15; Paul Maseyk Farewell Exhibition, through May 11; Resident Artist Exhibition and Benefit Auction Exhibition, June 19-July 26, reception 6-8 p.m. June 19; Community Class Exhibition, June 5-8, reception 6-8 p.m. June 5; 406-443-3502

Holter Museum of Art: "Gary Horinek: Mentor," through June 15; "Kurt Weiser: Eden Revisited," May 29-Aug. 24, reception 6-8 p.m. June 6; "Youth Electrum," through May 18; "Then and Now," through May 18; 15th Annual Art Auction, June 6-28, auction June 28; Sarah Pilgrim and Susan Ostlind Lohmuller, "Perceptions: Two Montana Handweavers," June 3-29, reception 7:30-9 p.m. June 19; 406-442-6400

Montana's Museum at the Montana Historical Society: Craney Collection of Montana Art, through June; "Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark," ongoing; 406-444-2694

Turman Larison Contemporary

Anniversary Group Show, May 2-30, reception 6-8 p.m. May 2; 406-443-0340

Upper Missouri Artists Gallery: Priscilla Bode, month of May, reception May 16; Lyle Schwabauer, month of June; 406-457-8240

Award to honor student artist

In honor of Zach Culliton, a Great Falls student and artist who died March 7, Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art has established an annual honorary award, the Zach Culliton Merit of Distinction. The award honors Zach's memory by inspiring other local art students to tackle life's challenges in a manner equal to his.

The son of Tim and Terri Culliton was 20 years old when he died from the cumulative effects of Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, a degenerative neuromuscular disease. Over the years, he distinguished himself as a person who accepted his challenges with humility, but refused to be defined by his illness. He also displayed a love of art at an early age and pursued this passion throughout his life.

This merit of distinction will be awarded annually to a Great Falls Public School art student who embodies the passionate pursuit of art-making and demonstrates an ability to overcome challenges.

The first award was presented April 24 during a reception for the Great Falls Public School Art Student Exhibition. Call 406-727-8255 for more information.

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Continued on next page

F Exhibitions, May/June

Kalispell

Hockaday Museum of Art: "Nature and Spirit: Frank Tetrault," May 22-June 20, reception 5-7 p.m. May 29; The National Bicycle Touring Portrait Collection, May 27-July 8; George Gogas Paintings, through June 5; "New Artists" and "Going-to-the-Sun Children's Art Show," through May 17; "Rails, Trails and a Road," June 26-Oct. 18, reception 5-7 p.m. June 26; "20/20 Twenty Artists, Three Days," June 4-6; 406-755-5268

Northwest Healthcare Healing Arts Galleries, Kalispell Regional Medical Center:

"Land Escapes," and John Atkinson, "My Montana," through May 26; "Wildflowers of Glacier National Park," June 9-Oct. 6; 406-257-4217

Sassafras Artists and Craftsmen Co-op:

Shelle Lindholm, May 2-June 30, reception 5-8 p.m. May 2; 406-752-2433

Lewistown

Lewistown Art Center: "Shades of Pink," May 3-31, reception 5-7 p.m. May 3; Montana Watercolor Society Open Show, May 3-31, reception 5-7 p.m. May 17; Gunnar Mickelsen, "Lone Journey: A Retrospective in Art of the Life of Hans Christian," June 3-28, reception 5-7 p.m. June 13; "Tribute to Margaret Hunter," June 3-28; 406-535-8278

Livingston

Crazy Mountain Digital Photography: Lt. Warren Mabie, "One Soldier's View: Vietnam - '70-'71," through May 31; 406-222-2355

Livingston Depot Center: "On Track: Railroad Photographs of Warren McGee," May 24-Sept. 20; 406-222-2300

Livingston Center for Art and Culture:

Works by High School Students, May 6-24, reception, 5-7:30 p.m. May 22; Western Art Show, June 17-July 12, reception 5:30-8:30 p.m. June 27; 406-222-5222

Tierra Montana: "Inside the Fly Box:

Photographs by Sandy Owens" and "Animal Dreams: Paintings by Shelle Lindholm," June 27-July 11, reception 5 p.m. June 27; 406-222-3000

Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County: Lee Silliman, "Interior Responding Wonder," May 17-Sept. 27; 406-222-4184

Miles City

Custer County Art and Heritage Center:

Western Art Roundup, May 2-July 6, reception, 9:30-11:30 p.m. May 18; 406-234-0635

Missoula

Clay Studio: Potsketch 2008, May 2-17, reception 5:30-9 p.m. May 2; Potsketch Gala, 6:30-10 p.m. May 17; 406-543-0509

Dana Gallery: "Oil Painters of America

- National Exhibition," May 2-June 15, reception 6-9 p.m. May 2; 406-721-3154

Historical Museum at Fort

Missoula: Lee Silliman, "Treasure State Remnants: Montana's Ghost Town Heritage," through December; "Unintended Consequences: The 1918 Flu and WWI," ongoing; 406-728-3476

Missoula Art Museum:

"Encaustic Invitational," May 2-July 19, reception 7 p.m. May 2; "Christopher McElroy: Archetypal Subversion," through May 24, reception May 2; "Katy Stone: A Season Swirling (Unfurling)," through May 31; "Molly Murphy: Reservations Required" through May 24; "Following the Rhythms

of Life: The Ceramic Art of David Shaner," through June 7; The Willard Alternative School Juried Student Exhibition, May 2-Aug. 22; "Joe Fedderson: Vital Signs," June 3-Sept. 20, reception 7 p.m. June 6; "Gaylen Hansen: Three Decades of Painting," June 13-Aug. 23; 406-728-0447

Missoula Public Library: "Out at the Library," through May 31, 406-721-2665

Montana Museum of Art and Culture, PARTV Building, UM: "The Poindexter Collection," May 6-Aug. 16; 406-243-2019

Monte Dolack Gallery: "Taurus" and "Equis," reception 5-8 p.m. May 2; 406-549-3248

St. Michael's Church at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula: "Sister's Story: Missoula's Historic Mission," ongoing, opening reception 1-4 p.m. May 4; 406-728-3476

UM Gallery of Visual Arts: MFA Thesis Exhibition: Hak Kyun Kim, "on the edge" and Kathy Rodriguez, "The Extravaganza Awaits," through May 9; 406-243-2813

University Center Gallery: Nancy Charak, April 28-May 23, reception 5-7 p.m. May 1; 406-243-4991

Whooping Cranes Gallery: Paintings by Eldon Rowland and Hilton Leech, May 2-31, reception 5-8 p.m. May 2; Lauretta Bonfiglio, June 2-28, reception 5-8 p.m. June 6; 406-721-3042

Polson

Sandpiper Gallery:

"Great Spaces and New Faces," May 6-June 14, reception 5-7 p.m. May 9; "What Happens When Women Quit Quilting," June 17-July 26, reception 5-7 p.m. June 20; 406-883-5956

Red Lodge
Depot Gallery:

"Fritz Scholder Lithographs," May 1-15; Kurt Keller, "Montana Folks," May 15-June 21; and Mary Beth Hughes and Dennis Kern, month of May; John Potter Exhibit, June 1-30; 406-446-1370

Red Lodge Clay Center: Jason Walker, and "Y=F(X)," month of May, reception 5-7 p.m. May 2; Dawn Holder, June 6-27, reception 5-7 p.m. June 6; 406-446-3993

Sidney

MonDak Heritage Center: The Traveling Collection, from Custer County Art and Heritage Center, May 1-26; "Anchored in a Sea of Grass," June 1-July 1; 406-433-3500

St. Ignatius

Allard's Flathead Museum: Barbara Lwanga Ashley, through July 30; 406-745-2951

Stevensville

Beaded Pony: Beaded Art Show and Contest, May 1-10; 406-777-2141

Whitefish

Stumptown Art Studio: Kelly Marchetti, reception 6-9 p.m. May 1; Student Spring Show, reception 6-9 p.m. June 5; 406-862-5929

Glasgow welcomes new mobile art gallery, ArtSpot

By Toni Marie LaGree

ArtSpot, a new mobile art gallery in Glasgow, provides the community with beauty, education and cultural interaction. ArtSpot partners, Laura Gittings-Carlson and Toni Marie LaGree, jumped at the opportunity to decorate the walls of the Soma-Dis Deli in downtown, and thus ArtSpot was born. More than 100 people attended the gallery's first opening in August 2007 and it has shown continued success since then.

For now, the gallery is considered mobile since it has no home of its own and instead shares a space. Soma-Dis owner Beth Bondy generously shares her space and both parties benefit from this new cooperative-style gallery.

Since the artwork changes out on a monthly basis, the deli customers always have more reasons to come visit and the reputation of the artists and the gallery effortlessly grows. The situation works fluidly as ArtSpot owners are completely responsible for all areas of their gallery, from the coordinating and hanging of exhibitions, to advertising, holding openings and being available for sales and any other questions.



Soma-Dis Deli in Glasgow is home to ArtSpot, a cooperative-style gallery that showcases contemporary art.

Everyone loves beauty and art and ArtSpot is the only gallery in the area providing residents with an easily accessible place to see contemporary art. Part of the gallery's mission is its commitment to offering a rich and diverse cultural experience to northeastern Montanans by creating a place for people of all ages to view and experience life as depicted by contemporary visual artists.

The gallery also provides an opportunity for education through reading and learning about different artists' methods, philosophies and approaches to their work. In the future, ArtSpot will provide seminars and presentations to encourage art and art education.

Along with education, the gallery is a place that fosters cultural interaction by presenting artists whose work may express differing views from the cultural norms of the area.

ArtSpot has featured many local artists in different media, including oil painter, litho printer, and MFA student Cathryn Sugg; biologist John Carlson; contemporary artist and art teacher Jamie Hanson; digital painter and photographer Sean Heavey; and contemporary line artist Donna Roness, with many more to come.

For more information on ArtSpot, how to show your artwork, or how to purchase pieces from exhibitions, please contact either LaGree at 406-228-9072, Gittings-Carlson at 406-526-3262, or email artspotgallery@gmail.com.

Flathead Community Spirit Monument: Showing how the whole is greater than its parts

Artists, community leaders and local celebrities will gather from 1-4 p.m. May 31 at Woodland Park in Kalispell to dedicate the Flathead Community Spirit Monument.

The afternoon celebration features many speakers, including Annie Garde, host of Montana Public Radio's "Pea Green Boat"; Kalispell Mayor Pam Kennedy; and radio personality, photographer and writer George Ostrom. Live music from the Montana Marimba Ensemble adds to festivities.

The monument project was born in 2002 in response to

an alarming growth of angry political division in the valley. An organization, called Joining Hands Against Hate, engaged Kalispell sculptor Kay Lynn to create a monument that expresses the strong love that people felt for their community, as well as the need for all to be respectful of others, despite their differences.

Lynn felt the main theme of the monument should be communication and inclusiveness, so she designed a structure of four, 10-foot pillars with a simple roof to symbolize the community.

"I wanted to use a familiar form," Lynn says, "one that suggested shelter, or social gathering. Unlike most public sculpture, you can't really appreciate what it is from a distance. Also, just like any community, you can't perceive its complexity and beauty until you really examine it up close."

The pillars are covered with more than 2,000 individual tiles made in Lynn's studio by valley citizens from all walks of life. This unique collage took six years to complete, and is the result of thousands of volunteer hours.

Just like the people who made them, no tile is exactly like another. Glazed in a variety of colors and sizes, many include sayings, stories, poems or hand-written messages to the readers. Here are a few selections:



Monument is comprised of more than 2,000 tiles.

"Free people build communities, promote economic growth, educate their children, and assure justice."

"In community we become aware of creativity. Gathered together we create our blessings."

"Let all that you do be done in love."

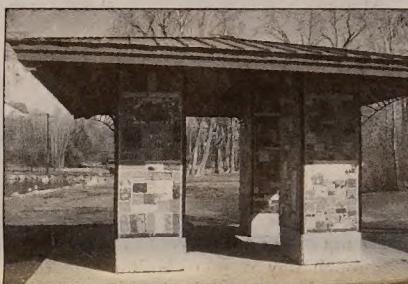
"No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible!"

"Don't worry about leaving your legacy, live it!"

And finally, "Be in Love with Life!"

The monument was paid for by donations from local individuals and businesses. Many dedicated professional artists contributed as well, with decorative forged iron work by Dan'l Moore, a ceiling mural by Linda Katsuda, special tile works by Lael Gray and mixed-media artist Lisa Schaus, and relief sculptures by Frank Tetrault, Bob Cavanaugh, Mark Ogle and Charlie Davis. Tile artists Layah Cottonwood, Jani Dryden, Wendy Anderson, Walker Davis, Kitty Rich and Sherry Wells also contributed to the project.

"I never realized how powerful this monument would really be," Lynn says. "It truly demonstrates that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."



Flathead Community Spirit Monument is located at Woodland Park in Kalispell.

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Caledonian Society celebrates centennial

The Miles City Caledonian Society, which boasts over 50 dancers and a pipe band, is celebrating its 100th anniversary June 27-29.

Festivities include a dinner on Friday featuring a concert by Isla St. Clair, a Scottish-born singer, and Highland Reign, a band that performs traditional and original Scottish tunes.

Saturday's offerings include a golf tournament (where at least one person per team must don a kilt), a Ghost Tour, Highland games for kids and adults, and an evening Ceilidh, or "small party," that includes dinner, music, piping and dancing. The celebration wraps up Sunday with a brunch at the Range Riders Museum.

The society has hosted the annual Robert Burns Dinner, held on the Saturday closest to Jan. 25 since 1908, when Scottish immigrants first gathered at Wibaux Hall for a reading of Burns' poems, bagpiping and a banquet. This past January, the Burns Night Centennial attracted 800 people. Society members believe it is the second oldest cultural event in Montana, with Indian powwows the first.

The society's dance troupe presents both traditional and choreographed dances to live piping and recorded music. The group has performed at the annual Bucking Horse Sale parade in Miles City, the Festival of Nations in Red Lodge, St. Patrick's Day festivities in Glendive, a Celtic festival in Gillette, WY, as well as a national competition in Estes Park, CO. The Caledonian Pipe Band performs at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Billings, and accompanies the dancers to various events throughout the year.

For more information on the Miles City Caledonian's Centennial Celebration, visit mccaledonians.blogspot.com or call Clint McRae at 406-347-5221.

Main Street program open for applications

The Montana Main Street program, which promotes the revitalization of historic downtown business districts, opened up a new cycle of applications April 1, with a deadline of July 1. Up to three new communities will be selected for Main Street designation.

According to Julie Burk, Montana Main Street program coordinator, the seven Main Street communities (Libby, Polson, Stevensville, Butte, Anaconda, Livingston and Red Lodge) in 2007 collectively created 106 new jobs and 45 new businesses. Public improvement projects totaled almost \$3 million dollars and building improvements totaled \$1.5 million. Volunteers contributed more than 5,000 hours to their communities.

The Main Street approach, which includes technical training and consulting for participating communities, focuses on four major areas: organization, promotions, design and economic restructuring.

Applications are due July 1 and may be downloaded from www.mtmainstreet.mt.gov, or are available by calling Julie Burk at 406-841-2756.

NATIVE NEWS

Joe Medicine Crow nominated for Presidential Medal of Freedom

Sen. Jon Tester recently nominated Dr. Joe Medicine Crow to receive one of the highest honors bestowed by the United States – the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Medicine Crow, 94, is a lifelong resident of Lodge Grass, who served in the Army during World War II. While in Europe, Medicine Crow accomplished four "war deeds," making him a war chief of the Crow Nation. His war deeds included hand-to-hand combat with an enemy (a German soldier), leading troops into enemy territory and capturing enemy horses (Medicine Crow captured 50 of them from a Nazi camp).

He was recently featured in the acclaimed documentary series *The War* by filmmaker Ken Burns.

Medicine Crow is an accomplished scholar, teacher, writer and historian. He was the first Crow Indian to earn a master's degree, but his doctoral research was sidetracked by his World War II service. Medicine Crow has since earned three honorary doctorates and has written several books about Crow history and culture.

"In Montana, we are fortunate to have many present-day reminders of a land and a people of former times," Tester wrote in his nomination letter to President Bush. "Joe is not only one such reminder, but a shining case."

Medicine Crow is a longtime friend of

retired U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming, and was instrumental in developing the Plains Indian Museum at the renowned Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody.

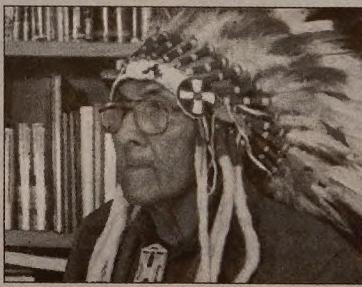
The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor given by the President of the United States. Although it is a civilian medal, it is often awarded for military heroism. Montana recipients include Sen. Mike

Mansfield and actress Martha Raye, who was born in Butte.

Tester received numerous letters of support for his nomination of Medicine Crow from leaders around the country. In addition to Simpson, Sen. Max Baucus,

Gov. Brian Schweitzer, filmmaker Ken Burns, Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-HI, and retired Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-CO, each sent letters.

President Bush is expected to announce recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom later this year.



Joe Medicine Crow

MIBA meets May 14 in Great Falls

The Montana Indian Business Alliance holds its quarterly meeting 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 14 at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls.

The agenda includes planning for the 2009 Montana Indian Business Conference and community business meetings, and organizing the Montana Indian Youth Team.

Breakfast and lunch will be served; to aid with meal planning, RSVP to Sandy Wood at 406-454-6226 or email swood@fib.com by May 5.

MIBA was formed in 2006 to foster the development of Indian-owned businesses; for details, visit www.mibaonline.org.

Winners announced for Native American Art Show

More than 35 Native American artists gathered at the Mansfield Center in Great Falls March 13-16 for the 26th annual Great Falls Native American Art Show. This year's event was highlighted in the March/April issue of *Native Peoples* magazine.

The winners of the 2008 show, titled "Hooves on the Plains," were:

Best of Show: "Future Generations" by Deborah Magee

Main Art Show: second prize, "Thunder Pipe" by Lyle Omeasoo; and third prize: "Chicken Dancer" by Edmond Albert and "Turtle Drum" by Merl Big Bow

Miniature Art Show: second prize, "Spirit Image" by Darrell Norman; and third prize, "Shaggy Thunder" by Merl Big Bow and "Little Girl's Purse" by Ramey Growing Thunder

Honorable Mentions: "Cheyenne Intimacy" by Alaina Buffalo Spirit; "Buffalo Hide" by Chandler Good Strike; "Takes 2 Horses and a Gun" by David Dragonfly; "Journey to the Sun Lodge" by Terrance Guardipee; "Buffalo Robe" by Anton LeBeau; "Quilled Jingle Bag" by Deborah Magee; and "Turtle Necklace" by Bill Running Fisher.

— from the *Great Falls Tribune* (March 16)

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CULTURAL TOURISM

Cultural Council launches "Meet Me in Missoula"

By Joe Nickell
Reprinted with permission
from the *Missoulian* (April 7, 2008)

For people interested in the arts and culture, there's always something to do in Missoula. The Missoula Cultural Council hopes to spread that message to a regional audience with an innovative marketing campaign.

Its success depends, mostly, on you.

"We're really relying on our local residents to make this thing work," said Tom Bensen, executive director of the MCC. "But I think people will see that it's a pretty fun and easy way to support the arts."

Easy indeed. Anyone shopping downtown in April will likely notice stacks of colorful "Meet Me in Missoula" flyers distributed at retail establishments and restaurants.

The idea: Pick up a card, jot a personal note on it, and mail it to a friend who lives outside Missoula.

That's it.

The cards encourage people to consider visiting Missoula on the weekend of May 1-4, when an especially broad array of local events will take place, including the opening of the downtown outdoor markets, as well as numerous concerts, plays, workshops and sports events.

"Missoula is always busy with events, but this was a particularly full weekend, so it fit



Missoula Cultural Council promotion urges locals to invite friends to "Meet Me in Missoula."

perfectly with the idea of the program," said Sara Bruya, the special events coordinator at the MCC.

It was Bruya who dreamed up the "Meet Me in Missoula" campaign earlier this year, as a way to encourage people from around the region to consider Missoula as a cultural destination. The program grew out of a series of meetings held over the past year by local arts-related businesses and organizations, who aim to increase awareness of the cultural resources offered in Missoula.

While weekend arts festivals can be found around the region and across the country,

Bruya said that the "Meet Me in Missoula" program came together more organically – offering proof of the abundant cultural opportunities that this city offers on a regular basis.

"What's really exciting about this is, these are events that were already happening on a weekend in Missoula. It's not like we asked people to set up events especially for this program," Bruya said. "I think we have reason to be proud of the cultural vibrancy of this town, and all that it has to offer."

It'd be impossible for one person to attend all of the events promoted in the "Meet Me in Missoula" campaign. On Saturday (May 3) alone, there are two theatrical productions ("Seussical" at Missoula Children's Theatre, "House of Blue Leaves" at UM's Masquer Theatre), two concerts (Junior Brown at the Wilma Theatre, the Missoula Symphony Orchestra at the University Theatre), a dance concert, a Missoula Phoenix game, three outdoor markets and an all-day festival in Caras Park.

"It's a great combination of events, where you literally can find something to please anybody," Bensen said. "It's a great testament to the message we're trying to get out in the first place."

People interested in inviting their friends should keep an eye out at local retail establishments for flyers for the program; or visit www.missoulacultural.org/mmm, where an email version of the invitation can be personalized and sent.

New edition of *Cultural Treasures* available

From Absarokee to Wisdom, the new edition of Montana's Cultural Treasures is chockfull of information on galleries and museums throughout the Treasure State. Bookstores and theatres are also listed in the 2008-2009 directory.

The Montana Arts Council, Montana Historical Society, Travel Montana and Lee Enterprises collaborate on the annual guide, which was launched more than a decade ago. Listings are available to any establishment that has an exhibition space open to the public during regular business hours.

In an introduction to the guide, Gov. Brian Schweitzer notes that Montana "is blessed to have a thriving arts community that is very much alive in every corner of our state. We have some of the world's finest artists and performers living and working right here under the Big Sky."

The free guide is available at galleries, museums and visitors' centers throughout the state; to request copies or for advertising and listing information, email [Jacque Walawander](mailto:jacque.walawander@lee.net) at jacque.walawander@lee.net or call 800-366-7193, ext. 271.

Billings Cultural Partners post integrated online calendar

Billings Cultural Partners (BCP) recently launched an integrated website, www.billingsevents.com, as Phase One of the organization's Bring IT On project – a grassroots, peer-to-peer information technology project designed to utilize both the Internet and other digital distribution channels to reach cultural consumers in a real-time, relevant and cost-effective manner.

The new website has created a cultural "facebook" of Billings and Yellowstone County, providing access through the click of a computer mouse to a comprehensive, updatable cultural and arts calendar that lists hundreds of area events, art education opportunities and activities. The new website also enhances internal communications and tech support for the

25 nonprofit arts organizations who comprise Billings Cultural Partners.

Phase One of the project provides the BCP with an effective mass communications tool and a cultural arts coalition. In addition, the new website now serves as the main information source for multidisciplinary art activities such as the High Plains BookFest and the BCP Presents! Call of the Wild Festival, which Billings Cultural Partners and the YMCA Writer's Voice will present in October 2008.

Phase two of Bring IT On, scheduled for launch in late summer 2008, will add a graphically exciting new look to the site, and extend information collected on the new BCP website to other channels, such as email, cell phones, text messaging, SMS and XML feeds, digital

kiosks and calendar integration on Google, Yahoo, MSN and FaceBook.

Kathleen Benoit, who serves as Billings Cultural Partner team manager, along with Corby Skinner, said more and more people are depending on electronic communication as their main source for news, entertainment and to learn about special events. In addition to using the Internet, she said, people are turning to "non Internet" sources for information.

By utilizing a process called viral marketing, Benoit said the website will be able to aggregate information from multiple digital sources to further promote and celebrate Billings' cultural opportunities.

For more information, visit www.billingsevents.com.

Volunteers needed for National Folk Fest

Mainstreet Uptown Butte recently selected a volunteer coordinator for the 2008 National Folk Festival to help recruit, organize and reward the hundreds of volunteers who will be needed to successfully put on the National Folk Festival this coming July 11-13.

The new volunteer coordinator is Denys "Denny" Dutton of Butte, the principal business operator and tour guide of Old Butte Historical Adventures and the head volunteer for Southwest Montana's Red Cross office in Butte.

Dutton, a retired U.S. Army captain, was recently featured for his efforts to help the victims of forest fires in Southern California, a volunteer effort that drew on his organizational skills.

"We think we're a great fit" said George Everett, Mainstreet Executive Director. "Through a variety of volunteer projects in Butte, Denny has shown that he has the skills and the experience we need to pull together many different people with varied backgrounds but a common interest in the National Folk Festival into a cohesive unit. A great plus is his deep affection for Butte and its amazing history that is contagious."

Dutton is contacting the hundreds of volunteers who have already expressed an interest in the festival, yet many more are needed.

The event calls on the energy and enthusiasm of as many as 900 volunteers to do

a variety of tasks from checking in staff and performers at the host hotel to logging music at the seven stages, or collecting contributions during the festival as part of a 200-volunteer-strong bucket brigade.

Volunteer shifts range from two-to-four hours, and compensation is a free t-shirt and a ticket to a special recognition event on Saturday night.

The festival has also released a wish list of needs, that can either be donated or purchased, for the free event, which includes:

- **Gas powered golf carts to borrow or rent.** Carts will help shuttle elderly and disabled visitors and to allow staff and volunteers to move about the festival site as needed. Gas-powered carts are preferred to help negotiate Butte's steep hills.

- **Two previously owned storage trailers.** Trailers are needed to store dance-floor components and house festival-related gear after the event. Trailers must have good floors, measure at least 102-inches wide and 53-feet long, and be waterproof.

- **Sponsors.** The festival is still seeking a few good sponsors – corporate partners willing to invest in an opportunity to reach thousands during the event and through pre-festival advertising.

For details about volunteering or helping with other aspects of the festival, visit www.nationalfolkfestival.com or call 406-497-6464.

More performers join festival roster

The National Folk Festival – described as a "moveable feast of deeply traditional folk arts" – has landed beneath the Big Sky July 11-13, when it settles in for a three-year stay in Butte.

The festival's vast repertoire of music and dance includes: Shemekia Copeland (blues); Wylie and the Wild West (western); The Seldom Scene (bluegrass); Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca (Congolese/Cuban); The Oinkari Basque Dancers (traditional Basque dancing and music); Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas (zydeco); The Quebe Sisters Band (Texas fiddling and harmony singing); Clinton Fearon (Jamaican reggae); Yuqin Wang and Zhengl Xu (Chinese-rod puppetry); Le Vent Du Nord (Quebecois music, song and dance); Alex Meixner Band (polka); Grace Chang (Chinese zither); The Bernstons (Norwegian-American); and the Yuri Yunakov Ensemble (Bulgarian wedding music).

And these artists are only the beginning. In all, more than 250 musicians, dancers and craftspeople will participate, demonstrate, exhibit and perform at venues that include the Montana Folklife Area, the Montana Arts Marketplace and the First People's Marketplace.

Visit www.nationalfolkfestival.com.

NONPROFIT NEWS

Leadership workshops focus on marketing

The Montana Arts Council's 2008 Leadership Institute workshop series, "Marketing Tune-Up: Grow Your Audience and Your Bottom Line," will help your arts organization develop and implement a comprehensive approach to a strong audience growth strategy. Upcoming workshops are slated for May 16-17 in Great Falls and Oct. 3-4 in Missoula.

Workshops will be led by Jim Copenhaver, the Art of Leadership's program designer, along with experienced leaders in public relations, branding and technology, Dale Erquiaga and Len Edgerly.

For complete program information, visit art.mt.gov/orgs/orgs_leadership.asp or call or email Margo Sturgis at 406-961-4495 or msturgis@rmtmnet.com for a printed brochure.

Registration is \$175 per organization if participants meet the Early Bird deadlines (listed at right) and \$250 after that date, so you save \$75 by registering early! This fee covers meals

The Art of Leadership 2008

and registration for up to seven team members (additional members may attend for \$30 per person).

The online registration is open to teams from all Montana-based 501(c)(3) arts organizations. Teams may include executive, artistic and marketing directors, members of the board, future board members, key staff and volunteers. Register online at <http://app.mt.gov/confreg/>.

Thank you to the Montana Community Foundation and to WESTAF for sponsoring the 2008 workshop series.

Workshop dates, locations and Early Bird deadlines

• Great Falls Workshop: May 16-17

Early Bird Deadline, May 1
Lodging conference rate ends April 16
Registration: noon-1 p.m. Friday, May 16
Workshop: 1-9 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m.-
4:30 p.m. Saturday
Location: Hampton Inn, 2301 14th St.
SW, 406-453-2675

• Missoula Workshop: Oct. 3-4

Early Bird Deadline, Sept. 15
Lodging conference rate ends Sept. 3
Registration: noon-1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3
Workshop: 1-9 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m.-
4:30 p.m. Saturday
Location: Holiday Inn Parkside, 200
South Pattee St., 406-721-8550

Register online at <http://app.mt.gov/confreg/>

Include access information in season brochures

By Alayne Dolson

Executive director of VSA Arts of Montana

After reviewing publicity materials and reports of accomplishments in meeting Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for access for two days this week, my thoughts drifted to the kinds of questions we need to ask ourselves as we approach the task of improving accessibility for our programs, concerts and exhibits.

What is meant by access? What population do we picture when we think of accessibility? Where does a person go to find accessibility information? How can my organization improve its information delivery?

I recently read a concert program that had marvelous program notes, 12-point type, good paper choice, and at the end of the program notes, in 8-point type, was a message informing us that large print program notes were available upon request.

Was this helpful? NO. I had my nose on the page trying to read that phrase announcing accessible format. I am one of those over-60 concert-goers who reads programs and finds large print more and more desirable.

Where should such information be placed?

The aging audience, often facing newly acquired disabilities, needs to know that they can still be a part of the cultural life of the community, and needs to know that every attempt will be made to make sure their needs are met.

My first suggestion is that this information is best placed on the season brochure, along with all other access information. Tom Cordingly at Grandstreet Theatre in Helena has a "Helpful Notes" section in his season brochure addressing accessible parking, ramped access, large print access, availability of assistive listening devices and wheelchair seating. We appreciate Grandstreet for making access so visible.

This is the information that should be included on all season brochures, and I would suggest that a welcoming statement also be included. The aging audience, often facing newly acquired disabilities,

needs to know that they can still be a part of the cultural life of the community, and needs to know that every attempt will be made to make sure their needs are met.

If you need access to the ADA access graphics, they're available for download at www.gag.org/resources/das.php and they're free. The accompanying text is an excellent resource for access language that is welcoming and fosters dignity for all patrons.

The Montana Arts Council website will soon have a template for season brochures that includes access information. I encourage you to

use this resource and to invite people with disabilities to look at your brochures and printed materials to ensure that access information is clear and easy to read.

Another need that many communities must meet is identifying resources to provide ASL interpreted performances. Larger communities can locate resources through University Disability Resources departments, or through rehab centers in hospitals.

For school group performances, interpreters may accompany children needing ASL interpretation. If interpreters are simply not available, try to provide scripts or audio disks to assist the people who are deaf/hard-of-hearing.

Large print copies can be provided with your copy machine. Be sure to include information in your brochure advising that requests for large print or Braille need to be received at least two weeks before the event.

Montana still does not have trained audio describers to serve the needs of people who are blind or have low vision. We are working to remedy that situation and hope to have such a program in place within the next two years.

Organizations can improve access and awareness of access by including people with disabilities on steering committees, program committees, and on ad hoc publicity committees.

Access is important. One in nine of us will face temporary or permanent disability in our lifetimes. We do not want to give up the opportunity to attend the arts performances and exhibits that have been such an important part of our lives.

Alligators in the sewer: Countering myths and urban legends about nonprofits

Reprinted with permission from Board Cafe

It is worth noting that some common assumptions about nonprofits are actually more like urban legends. Like the legendary alligators in New York sewers, these stories have been passed along through so many people they've gained a measure of credibility just by their longevity.

• "Nonprofits can't make a profit." The IRS guidelines clearly state that any profits can't be simply distributed to board members (as corporate profits are to shareholders), but they don't say that nonprofits can't have profits. In fact, surpluses ("profits") are needed by nonprofits to even out their cash flows, to provide reserves for emergencies, and to allow them to pay for equipment, research, staff development,

building renovations, and other necessary investments.

• "Nonprofits can't charge for their services." In fact, many nonprofits exist solely or mostly on fees charged, such as nonprofit preschools that charge tuition, or community choirs that sell tickets to their concerts.

• "Nonprofits are poorly managed compared to businesses." It depends which business! Compared to Enron, Montgomery Ward, Webvan? In fact, nonprofits often achieve

Nonprofits often achieve growth rates well above for-profit companies of comparable size, and do so while undercapitalized, highly regulated, and still with the highest of ethical standards.

growth rates well above for-profit companies of comparable size, and do so while undercapitalized, highly regulated, and still with the highest of ethical standards.

• "Nonprofits can't lobby." Nonprofits cannot engage in any electoral activity – they

can't support or oppose candidates. However, they can support or oppose ballot measures

Continued on page 23

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UM offers courses for nonprofit community

The University of Montana is offering online short courses in nonprofit administration specifically designed for busy professionals. Practicing administrators and others interested in building skills relating to nonprofit administration are encouraged to register.

Over the past year, courses have included grantwriting, strategic planning and leadership, building an effective nonprofit board, fundraising and financial management.

The fee for each course is \$100 for members of the Montana Nonprofit Association and \$125 for non-members. To register, call 406-243-6419 or go to www.umt.edu/ce/deo/extended/OnlinePrograminNonprofitManagement.htm.

Call Jill Beauchesne at 406-243-2586 for more information.

CAREER PROFILES

John Dunnigan ruminates on life as a professional musician

Welcome to Career Profiles, a new, regular feature of State of the Arts. Many of you have told us you would like to hear from artists around the state who are succeeding in their businesses. This new feature will profile a different artist in each issue, so stay tuned.

John Dunnigan

If Jimmy Buffett, James Taylor and John Prine were joined together in some bizarre musical cloning experiment, the outcome might resemble Flathead Valley musician John Dunnigan. This entertainer took the backroads to Montana over three decades ago and never left (he's no fool).

Today, he performs throughout Montana and the Northwest at bars, corporate events, weddings, schools, fairs and festive brouhahas of every conceivable kind. His original, often hilarious songs make you think, laugh, sing along and raise your glass in a toast to life.

The Career Questionnaire

Q: How did you know this is what you wanted to be?

JD: I'm not sure I knew that I wanted to be "folk singer." I grew up with a lot of music in the house and all around me ...

Q: How did you get started in your career?

JD: A friend of mine and I started to sing songs in the early 1970s – James Taylor, Gordon Lightfoot, the Beatles. And of course, growing up just north of San Francisco in the '60s and '70s, I was living in the greatest spot on earth at that time for music.

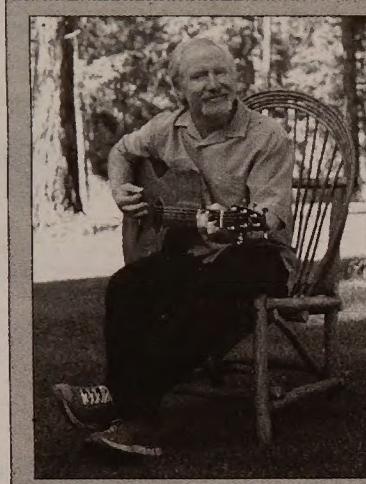
Q: What were the pivotal moments on your path to building your career?

JD: Seeing the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show was one of the surreal moments of my life ... from that point on, the world was very different.

Q: What role did education play?

JD: I did take music classes at the college I was attending, but by that time I was already out playing late-night gigs. Getting up early and singing at 8 a.m. really did not mix that well.

Q: What role did your family and friends play?



I feel very fortunate that I don't have to be anybody else but me. No costumes, fake British accents, giant cowboy hats, and up to this point, I have never used musical steroids!

– John Dunnigan

JD: My father played guitar and harmonica. My grandparents were very involved in the music world too. Grandfather sang in the San Francisco Metropolitan Opera and his pianist was his wife. And my Uncle Jack Pinson had plans to be a singer, but World War II took care of that. All my friends were and still are very supportive of my music.

Q: Did help come from some unexpected places?

JD: Not really ... just the normal places, like friends and relatives.

Q: Did unexpected obstacles appear?

JD: I suppose trying to live a "normal" life and being a musician is still the hardest thing. The hours, the traveling and the lifestyle sometimes don't mix with the nine-to-five crowd. I've strived to say home as much as I can. Other friends did more glamorous gigs, sometimes out on the road, while my goal was to coach baseball and then run off and do a local gig – let the road come to me. And living here in the Flathead Valley, the road is still coming ... maybe a bit too much!

Q: How did the financial resources come together for you to produce your work?

JD: I always had a job as a kid and young man. I learned the value of hard work, and that's where so many young musicians fail. It's very deceptive being up on stage with people clapping and dancing or whatever. But it's what comes before getting up on stage that people don't see, the learning of the craft. Then the whole equipment ordeal is very consuming ... It's hard work to be a musician. VERY HARD.

Q: Do you have business partners?

JD: I did the band thing for years. It was a great experience, playing with other musicians. But the combination of egos, lifestyle and personal issues drove me into the solo world. Plus, drummers don't like funny front men.

I never looked back.

Q: How do you define your market?

JD: I suppose my market is anyone who will listen. I guess my appeal could be the "non-serious" approach. Jerry Reed for example – one of the greatest guitar players ever, and yet all people remember him for his funny tunes and laid

back, "feet up on front porch" attitude.

Being well rounded also helps me get and keep jobs. I have done many of the same fairs for going on 10 years, even though the rule of thumb is to get someone new every other year. My success at that is based on showing up on time, being a team player, and of course appealing to the audience. I have played the Big Mountain Resort for 19 straight years in the same place.

The community arts council gigs are some of the best! People willing to listen, and then react to your songs ... It's like playing to big, juicy targets, which is not always the case with some of the ski gigs and night-club venues.

Q: What are your most successful marketing vehicles?

JD: Probably just being myself. I feel very fortunate that I don't have to be anybody else but me. No costumes, fake British accents, giant cowboy hats, and up to this point, I have never used musical steroids!

Being well rounded helps too, and LOVING the material is huge! I love all the stuff I play. In fact, lately I tell people that I only do the songs that I love so don't ask for any Kenny Rodgers stuff. But when I do a Merle Haggard song or a Paul Simon or Jimi Hendrix ... I LOVE that stuff and it probably shows on stage.

Q: What advice would you offer artists in Montana who are trying to build their careers?

JD: Being a good person is the main thing here. I thank my parents for teaching me to be respectful, and to work hard and go home. No question that many younger players think that they are kinda "above the law." The "I'm in the band" attitude will get you nowhere!

New DVD offers opportunity to learn from Peter Voulkos

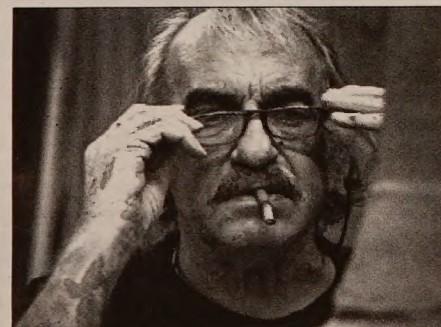
With a cigarette dangling from his lips, Peter Voulkos slams balls of clay into a lump, then wedges the 30-pound mass, muscles straining as he rocks and rolls it into a spiral form. Student vassals carry it to the wheel.

His clothes are smeared with mud; his fingers, oozing, slip, shape and pull, shape and pull; the wheel spins. It's wet, dripping water while Voulkos uses a paddle and then a knife, mumbling comments to students, making jokes.

More mud splashes when he digs in with his fingers, grabbing a stick to undercut the foot. Finally the form fits. He steps back and does a little flamenco dance of joy, surrounded by laughing students.

In "Our Founding Mudder Who Art in Heaven: A Workshop with Peter Voulkos," videographer Martin Holt provides a unique view of this complex man who changed the course of ceramics by introducing it to abstract impressionism.

Holt screened the DVD April 19 at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena, and has been invited to show it again at the ReelHeART International Film Fest, June 16-21 in Toronto, Canada.



Peter Voulkos at work, from the new DVD, "Our Founding Mudder."

According to Holt, Voulkos's approach to teaching a workshop shows he was an artist to the core and a teacher at heart.

The artist's workshops were chaotic, full of music and conversations and activity. His teaching went the extra mile, says Holt. "He showed tricks and techniques without holding back."

For the artist, there was no proprietary information. Voulkos valued the fact that students asked questions that he might not ask

himself, and he concluded, "I got more from my students than I ever gave back."

"Our Founding Mudder" documents Voulkos (1924-2002) teaching a workshop organized by Torbjørn Kvasbø as part of the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Norway. It is Voulkos at his best, confident and direct, says Holt.

Much of the audio was gleaned from interviews and previous filming sessions in which he talked about the kinds of things that were important to him as he grew in his understanding of art, and of himself as an artist.

Voulkos was an iconoclast, never inhibited by tradition. "I never have had an idea of what I would make before I started," he said.

He followed his hunches, working freely until the piece looked done or he ran out of ideas. "The hardest thing is to get it to look like art," he admitted. "If I can get it to look like art then it'll be alright."

"Our Founding Mudder Who Art in Heaven: A Workshop with Peter Voulkos" is available directly from MontanaArtWorks.biz as well as at various retail sales outlets that routinely carry this type of media.

Holt's other video projects include "Rudy Auto Makes Night Music," released in 1994.

Law and the Art World

Updates on art world aggravations and legal issues

By Bill Frazier © 2007

During the last year I have written about various scams aimed at artists, Internet piracy, income-tax matters and questionable art marketing practices. This article will update some of those discussions.

Scams: There are at least two new "scams" making the rounds of the Internet, both of which have been aimed at many artists. These are not specifically aimed at the arts and artists, as such, but go to artists because there are many websites with lists of artists easily available. They are both variations of the Nigerian scam, about which I have written several times, and this is how the new ones work:

One is a letter or email from Mrs. Stella *****, who claims to be the special advisor to "Mr. President of Nigeria," asserting that you have been approved to be paid \$8,000,000, or some such amount, apparently "just because." Of course, you must reply with all sorts of information, which just happens to include your bank account numbers, social security number, phone numbers, address and so on. Please do not fall for this.

I have already had two artist clients wanting to get in on this before all the money is gone. Do you really think that the president of Nigeria, if they even have one, has singled you out for this money?

The other one starts with a letter from Mrs. Hannah *****, or some such, and informs you that she is dying of some unfortunate disease and is planning to will to you or your organization a vast amount of money for doing "good work." You, of course, must get in touch with Barrister ***** and give him all sorts of information, including, you guessed it, your bank account number and other identifying data. Again, if such solicitations are tempting, you must question why you have been singled out from the millions of potential beneficiaries around the world.

Always ask who this person is and where and why they have your address. If you are still tempted, call your own lawyer, or the police and discuss potential problems and let them run these people down rather than getting involved yourself. Or, ignore and erase the message.

Also, beware if the message comes as an email attachment because it will probably include a computer virus or some other attempt to hack into your computer.

Better yet, get on the FBI website and read more about the Nigerian scam, its various offshoots, and other scams circulating on the Internet.

Enhanced prints: In a recent issue of *Art of the West*, the publishers took to task the market-

ing concept of "enhanced prints." To expand on that idea, I suggest that this is simply a 21st century stab at resurrecting limited edition prints. As I think most readers will agree, limited editions died from their own marketing abuses. When everything from art prints to cars were offered in ubiquitous limited editions, and in editions of tens of thousands, the concept imploded.

Now, it seems that the market is trying to recapture some of the allure of the early limited editions by marketing variations on the theme, none of which, in this writer's opinion, have any intrinsic value. They are just copies or mechanical reproductions made with newer, and admittedly improved, technologies. The print de jour is the giclee.

Even better is the enhanced giclee, wherein the artist or his assistant takes a couple of swipes with a paint brush to add some gratuitous texture and enhance the price by five or ten fold. You still have a mechanical reproduction with questionable real value.

For the amount of money that such products cost, plus several hundred dollars typically for framing, consider for a comparable cost, buying one or more of the many wonderful small original paintings by many excellent artists.

I realize that this may be an entry level purchase for many buyers, but from personal visits to many galleries, I see entirely too much hype associated with such prints. I also see far too much confusion among buyers, and gallery sales people, as to what the print actually is. It emphatically is not an original. For less money, the collector, even at entry level, can buy an original painting from one of many "name" artists at galleries, shows, auctions and especially at the variety of miniature shows around the country. Do your homework!

Limited edition prints: Notwithstanding the above paragraphs, for the first time in several years, I have been receiving calls from artists wanting to embark upon limited edition print programs, typically to be sponsored by an enthusiastic neighbor or relative with no art marketing experience.

I discourage such projects because often they fail and generate ill will between the participants. I am not talking about agreements between artists and established art publishing houses. The problems occur when well-meaning and enthusiastic customers want to get into the art business but have no real idea or experience in and about the selection, publishing and distribution of art and reproductions. The usual result is that the project fails, each blames the other, threats of lawsuits ensue and long-term antagonisms develop.



Bill Frazier

Witnessing this are stacks of undistributed limited edition prints in garages and warehouses around the country. If you are tempted, please analyze the pros and cons of the project objectively, the costs, especially the distribution plans, and seek competent advice. And do not sign contracts without professional review.

Deduction for the donation of artwork:

Several times over the years, the issue of fair-market-value charitable tax deductions for artists has been discussed. The United States Congress has made several attempts at passing this tax-relief measure to benefit artists, writers and musicians. The bills have always failed.

The current proposed legislation, titled the Artist-Museum Partnership Act (Senate Bill S. 548 and House Bill H.R. 1524) remains pending but unpassed. Artists are encouraged to get in touch with their senators and congressmen and ask them to vote for the bills. This represents a dollars-in-the-pocket benefit for many artists.

Counterfeit cashier's checks: I reiterate my warning to those of you being contacted by overseas buyers. There has been a proliferation of counterfeit bank and cashier's checks, overpayments and excessive shipping fees involved in purchase scams of artwork. These are usually accompanied with a variety of sob stories and requests for cash refunds of overpayments for the artwork and shipping fees. If you are approached with any one of these situations or variations on the theme, beware and back off.

Bill Frazier served a lengthy and invaluable tenure as chairman of the Montana Arts Council. He's in private practice in Big Timber, and can be reached at 406-932-5453 or artlaw@mtintouch.net. MAC thanks Art of the West for permission to reprint this series.

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Find State of the Arts' articles online

Bill Frazier's "Law and the Art World" series is also available online with other articles from this and previous editions of *State of the Arts*.

Now there is a quick and easy way to search within "Law and the Art World" for Frazier's legal perspective on specific topics. His articles have been regrouped into 11 categories under the title "Artists' Legal Advice." In these, Bill discusses contracts, auctions, taxes, copyright issues and other subjects of recurring interest to artists.

Please bear in mind Frazier's important advice when using the resource: "... Don't forget that the law is a dynamic and ever-changing thing."

To reach the collection of articles, go to the arts council website at www.art.mt.gov and select the "Featured Online Services" link on the right side of the home page. That takes you to the State of the Arts "News Articles" page and a drop-down box under the "View articles for specific section"; then choose "Artists' Legal Advice" from the drop-down menu.

Alligators in the sewer (from page 21)

(such as for public school bonds or against new immigration laws). In addition, nonprofits can encourage legislators to support or oppose various pieces of legislation – as long as such lobbying activities are an "insubstantial" part of their activities. (Find more good info at www.independentsector.org/clpi/index.html, Charity Lobbying in the Public Interest.)

• **"A nonprofit budget has to be balanced."** In fact, in some years a nonprofit will want to budget for surpluses, such as to create a cash reserve, or to save up for new equipment. In other years the same nonprofit might budget a deficit, for example, to do one-time programs with windfall money, or to invest in a new fundraising director, or a publicity strategy. Over time, the financial goal of a for-profit is to maximize profits; the financial goal of a nonprofit is to sustain sufficient working capital for program continuance and strategic choices.

• **"Nonprofits aren't important economically."** Surprisingly, nonprofits generate six percent of the US gross domestic product (GDP), and employ one in every 14 American workers. Nonprofits mobilize the efforts of an army: 83.9 million adults volunteer 15.5 billion hours each year for the community and public benefit. This is equivalent of 7.7 million full-time staff. In comparison to this 7.7 million staff, the total active military personnel in all services (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force) is 1.4 million!

This article is reprinted with permission from the *Board Cafe*, a free newsletter for members of nonprofit boards of directors, co-published by CompassPoint Nonprofit Services and the National Center for Nonprofit Boards. CompassPoint Nonprofit Services is located at 731 Market St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103; call 415-541-9000 or email boardcafe@compasspoint.org.

O pportunities

Want the latest info on opportunities?

Using email, the arts council manages three biweekly information newsletters that provide current and ongoing opportunities. Artists, arts organizations and arts educators each have their own list.

To sign up for any or all of these information tools, email Beck McLaughlin at bemclaughlin@mt.gov or look for the sign-up form on our website and in the newspaper.

CAN offers website

The Community Arts Network (CAN) hosts a website that offers a living archaeology of information about community-based arts. Go to www.communityarts.net and find:

- The CAN Reading Room, which offers a large database of articles from *High Performance* magazine.
- A monthly newsletter, APnews, which can be subscribed to free of charge.

Resources, a bookstore and forums are also available.

Visual Arts, Crafts & Photography: Call for Entries - National

The Stevens County Historical Society and Museum in Morris, MN, is holding the second annual Horizontal Grandeur juried fine arts show July 11-Oct. 31. Participation in the exhibition is open to artists who reside in a state with a prairie and all pieces must be related to the prairie in some way. Submission guidelines, a downloadable brochure or on-line submission form can be found at www.stevenshistorymuseum.com. You can also contact the museum at 320-589-1719 or email grandeur@stevenshistorymuseum.com for more information or to request a brochure. DEADLINE: May 9, 2008.

Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center's Quilt National showcases the most exciting and innovative trends in the medium of layered and stitched fabric. Jurors select works that represent unique approaches to the medium and that demonstrate the breadth and diversity of contemporary expressions. For application and procedures, contact Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center, Quilt National, 8000 Dairy Lane, PO Box 747, Athens, OH 45701; 740-592-4981; email QN@dairybarn.org.

The CDS/Honickman First Book Prize biennial competition is open to American photographers of any age who have never published a book-length work and who use their cameras for creative exploration. The prize will honor work that is visually compelling, that bears witness, and that has integrity of purpose. For an application, contact Center for Documentary Studies, First Book Prize in Photography, 1317 West Pettigrew St., Durham, NC 27705; 919-660-3663; email docstudies@duke.edu; visit cds.aas.duke.edu.

Visual Arts, Crafts & Photography: Call for Entries - State and Regional

The Hockaday Museum's Arts in the Park, a juried art fair, will be held July 25-27 at Depot Park in Kalispell, MT. Arts in the Park, a benefit for the Hockaday Museum, is Northwest Montana's largest and longest-running art and entertainment fair and a summertime tradition in the Flathead Valley. Arts in the Park is open to all artists and craftsmen presenting original and handcrafted work. Applications are available at 406-755-5268 or www.hockadymuseum.org. DEADLINE: May 2, 2007.

Havre Festival Days Arts and Crafts Show will be held Sept. 19-20 at the fairgrounds in Havre. Fifty-three inside spaces are available with outside spaces available upon request. Booth space is \$40. Contact the Havre Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 308, Havre, MT 59501; 406-265-4383; email: chamber@havremt.net.

The City of Helena Public Art Committee invites artists and non-artists to participate in the Chalk Up Helena! sidewalk painting festival on the south end of the Downtown Helena Walking Mall. This family event will be held July 18-19

with the Downtown Sidewalk Summerfest. Artist participants must submit an application form and a non-refundable application fee per square. Application forms are available at www.ci.helena.mt.us/links, or contact City of Helena Public Art Committee, 316 N. Park Ave., Helena, MT 59623; 406-447-8491. DEADLINE: June 20, 2008.

The Northwest Healthcare Healing Arts Gallery in Kalispell Regional Medical Center invites artists to submit work for two invitational exhibits. Wild Flowers of Glacier National Park runs June 9-Oct. 6. Although this multi-media exhibit focuses on the wildflowers, it will include the wildflowers as portraiture, or within the landscape, or with animals, or by cabins or lodges, with people and other interpretations the artists choose. The following exhibit, Love Stories, runs Oct. 14-Feb. 2, 2009. This exhibit explores love relationships of all kinds between husband and wife, mother and daughter, father and son, grandparent and child, a boy and his dog, a woman and her horse, a bird and a cat, etc. Interested artists can send jpeg images of any media to Patricia Stewart at artworks@patriciastewart.com or mail images with a SASE to Patricia Stewart Studio, 426 N. Foys Lake Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901.

The Lewistown Chokecherry Festival Logo Contest, sponsored by the Lewistown Art Center, seeks a logo design for this year's festival, to be held Sept. 6. Creator of the winning logo design will receive \$200 in Chamber Bucks. Entries should be labeled with the name, address and phone number of the artist and mailed to the Lewistown Art Center, 801 W. Broadway, Lewistown, MT 59457. For more information, call 406-535-8278 or email iac@midrivers.com. DEADLINE: May 15, 2008.

The Lewistown Art Center seeks cowboy poets, western musicians and artists/vendors for the 23rd annual Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous, to be held Aug. 15-17. For more information, visit www.lewistownartcenter.org, email calam@lewistown.net or call 406-535-8278.

The Stevensville Art and Sculpture Society is preparing for the Scarecrow Festival, to be held Oct. 2 during First Friday. Individual artists and groups are eligible to enter. For more information, visit www.sassart.org or write to SASS, PO Box 808, Stevensville, MT 59870.

The Salish Point Festival of the Lake will be held in Polson on June 21. 10x10 booth spaces for arts and crafts are available. Get applications from the City of Polson, 106 1st St. East, or the Sandpiper Art Gallery, 306 Main St., PO Box 1163, Polson, MT 59860. For questions, call Mary at 406-883-2853 or email smair@cyberport.net.

The Sandpiper Art Gallery, now in its new location at 306 Main Street in Polson, will be accepting art for Great Spaces and New Faces. In addition to providing a unique opportunity to exhibit your artwork, this non-juried invitational show is designed to encourage artists and art lovers to join the Sandpiper Art Gallery. Artists are welcome to submit two- or three-dimensional visual art, not to exceed 48" in any one dimension or 50 lbs. in weight. All work must be ready to hang or display and be delivered to the Sandpiper Gallery on Saturday, May 3. The exhibit will be on display through June 14. Call the Sandpiper Gallery, 406-883-5956 or email mskelley@centurytel.net or kellyapgar@hotmail.com for additional information.

Choteau Summer Festival is seeking artists and craftspeople to exhibit on Saturday, July 5 at the Choteau City Park. Entry fee is \$20, if postmarked by June 20, \$25 thereafter. For more info call Cori McKay at 406-466-3139 or email corimckay@hotmail.com.

Treasure State Invitational Art Show, July 18-20, is looking for western and wildlife artists. Submit biography and digital files (jpeg) of your artwork

Disclaimer: No endorsement is intended or made of any product, service or information either by its inclusion or exclusion from the Opportunities section of the State of the Arts. While all attempts are made to insure the correctness and suitability of information under our control and to correct any errors brought to our attention, no representation or guarantee can be made as to the correctness or suitability of that information or any other linked information presented, referenced or implied. All critical information should be independently verified.

or your website to info@treasurestateartshow.com or mail to TSAS, PO Box 523, Hamilton, MT 59840. For further information, visit www.treasurestateartshow.com or call Dona Fisher at 406-363-7570. DEADLINE: May 15, 2008.

The 8th Annual Open Art Show is June 13-14 in Stevensville, as part of Western Heritage Days. Friday evening features an artist reception with a Quick Draw and auction of the original pieces to benefit the Stevensville Art and Sculpture Society and Stevensville Main Street Association, sponsors of the event. To request an application, or for more information, call 406-777-3773, or visit www.sassart.org.

The 33rd Annual Virginia City Art Show will be held August 8-10. Artists interested in participating in the art show should consider their work to be professional quality, and above the "craft" stage. Both 2D and 3D art will be accepted. Applications and rules are available from the Virginia City Area Chamber of Commerce. To request an application and rules for the art show, please leave a message with the chamber office at 406-843-5555 or email info@virginiacitychamber.com.

Bismarck Art and Galleries Association is in the planning stages for Capital A'Fair 2008, a juried fine art and crafts fair to be held on the North Dakota State Capitol grounds, Aug. 2-3. The association is looking for sidewalk chalk artists who are experienced in this art form. Artists will complete a work of art in chalk on an approximately 10'x10' sidewalk square. A \$50 stipend will be paid to the artist, or in lieu of stipend, artists may set up a booth, free of charge, to sell their work. Contact the Bismarck Art and Galleries Association, 422 E. Front Ave., Bismarck, ND 58504; 701-223-5986; email: baga@midconetwork.com. DEADLINE: June 20, 2008.

Birds of the Big Sky Country, an exhibit in May and June, sponsored by the Billings Arts Association, Montana Audubon and Rocky Mountain College, is open to Montana residents. Cash prizes for art and for photography. For more information, call William Crain, 406-697-9156 or Kayhan Ostrovor, 406-256-7481. DEADLINE: May 1, 2008.

The St. Maries Council for the Arts is now accepting applications for booth space in this year's 19th annual s.m.ART by the River Festival of the Arts. This multi-discipline festival will be held July 19-20 at Cherry Bend Boater's Park on the banks of the Shadowy St. Joe River approximately three miles from St. Maries, Idaho. Artists and fine handcrafters are asked to submit photos of their work. Applications are screened as they are received but no applications will be accepted after July 1, 2008. Deadline to enter is May 30. To obtain a booth application contact s.m.ART Booth Screening Committee, c/o Linda Schardine, 83363 Hwy 3 S., St. Maries, ID 83861; 208-245-3655; email: potter@usamedia.tv; or visit [www.mountainplacearts.com/smart/smart.html](http://mountainplacearts.com/smart/smart.html) and click on link for booth applications. To obtain the juried show prospectus, contact s.m.ART Juried Show Chair Cheryl Halverson, 7656 Sanders Rd., Tensed, ID 83870; 208-274-2455 or 208-245-3417; email: basketmakeart@yahoo.com; or visit [www.mountainplacearts.com/smart/smart.html](http://mountainplacearts.com/smart/smart.html) and click on link for juried prospectus.

Fisher Alley Art Show and Sale will be held July 12 along the Missouri River in Great Falls as part of the annual Riverfest. Booth spaces, 15' by 15' are \$50 before May 1, and \$75 after May 1. Participants need to provide their own tables, chairs, tents, structures and other items essential to the outdoor venue. For application and information, visit www.ci.great-falls.mt.us/events/riverfest or contact Cindy Stein at 406-771-1265 or email cstein@ci.great-fallsmt.us.

Grants and Fellowships

Institute of International Education is pleased to announce that the application is now available for the 2008 Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands, a unique professional development program for secondary school teachers and librarians. This year all teachers in grades six through 12 and Library Media Specialists are eligible to apply. This is a special chance for educators to visit these remote islands, the inspiration for Darwin and home to unique ecosystems found no where else on Earth. The application is now online at www.iie.org/toyota. For more information, email toyotateach@iie.org or call 877-832-2457. DEADLINE: May 9, 2008.

The National Society of Arts and Letters Competition awards a cash prize to artists who must have reached the age of 18 but not yet 30 at the time of the National Career Awards Competition. The discipline of the competition rotates annually among art, dance, drama, literature and music. The mission is to discover America's top artists at the beginning of their careers and encourage, sponsor, assist, showcase and introduce them to members of their profession. For application and procedures, contact National Society of Arts and Letters, 4227 46th Street NW, Washington, DC 20016; 202-363-5443; www.arts-nsal.org.

The School of American Research offers a unique opportunity for Native American scholars through its Katrin H. Lamon Resident Scholar Fellowship Program. This program is designed to enable Native American scholars to complete book-length manuscripts or doctoral dissertations in anthropology and related disciplines, including history, American studies and sociology. Resident scholars are provided with an apartment, office, stipend and other benefits during a nine-month tenure, Sept. 1-May 31. The Katrin H. Lamon Fellowship is one of six fellowships offered by the school's Resident Scholar Program. Native American scholars are encouraged to apply for other categories of support as well. Visit www.sarweb.org/home/nativeprograms.htm.

Save America's Treasures is seeking applicants for its Save America's Treasures 2008 grant program. Save America's Treasures makes critical investments in the preservation of our nation's most significant cultural treasures. Grants are awarded for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and nationally significant historic structures and sites. Grant amounts range from \$25,000 to \$700,000 to conserve collections and from \$125,000 to \$700,000 for historic property and sites projects. All the awards must be matched 1:1. Beginning this year, Save America's Treasures will be accepting on-line applications only through www.grants.gov, the federal government grant website. Paper applications will not be accepted. Complete guidelines, applications and information, as well as a database of previous Save America Treasure's awardees, can be found on the National Park Service website. For general information contact Kimber Craine at the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities or call 202-682-5661. DEADLINE: May 20, 2008.

The State Historic Preservation Office in Helena announces the availability of additional Preserve America funds. Communities eligible to apply are those designated as Preserve America Communities, cities or counties that have submitted their applications for designation, and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. Grant applications are sought for education and training projects and scholarships to attend preservation and tourism-related conferences and workshops. Preserve America grant applications and instructions are available at mhs.mt.gov/shpo/default.asp or by calling the State Historic Preservation Office, 406-444-7742 or 406-444-7768.

The State Historic Preservation Office of the Montana Historical Society has announced the third round of its Rural Property Brick and Mortar Grant. The program will award a total of \$15,000 to as many as three historic, rural agriculture-related buildings. The program seeks to preserve the historic character of rural agricultural buildings such as barns, grain

elevators and outbuildings through historically sensitive rehab. Funds will be awarded for brick and mortar expenses incurred only after July 1, 2008. Download an application at www.mhs.mt.gov/shpo/histarch.asp or call 406-444-7715.

VSA arts' Teaching Artist Fellowship program seeks to identify, engage and support teaching artists with disabilities in the visual and performing arts. Benefits include a program orientation and professional development retreat designed especially for teaching artists, and networking and teaching opportunities in Washington, D.C. (stipend and travel costs included). For more information and application, visit www.vsaarts.org or call 202-628-2800, ext. 3865. DEADLINE: May 7, 2008.

METLIFE/TCGA-ha! Program: *Think It, Do It* is a program for TCG member theatres that supports creative thinking and action in two ways: *Think It* grants (up to \$25,000) give theatre professionals the time and space for research and development, *Do It* grants (up to \$50,000) support the implementation and testing of new ideas. For guidelines and application please visit www.tcg.org/grants/aha/aha_index.cfm. For more information, contact Rowena Mackay, artistic programs associate, 212-609-5900 ext. 214, or email r.mackay@tcg.org. DEADLINE: May 15, 2008.

Workshops/Conferences

Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Missoula offers three sessions in career-training: Summer Intensive: A Foundation in Photography, June 2-Aug. 15; Professional Studies: Focus on your Career Path, Aug. 12-Sept. 6; and Advanced Intensive: Digital and Professional Development, Sept. 8-Oct. 17. For more information, visit www.rmsp.com or call 800-394-7677.

River Street Dance Theater Summer Workshop will be June 16-19 and June 23-26 at the studio, 421 North Second St., Hamilton. Styles offered to students 10 and older will be jazz, tap, hip-hop, modern and ballet, taught by guest artists Laurel Wall-Maclane, Jen Stearns, and Celie Erickson. Call 406-363-1203 for brochure and information.

"Color Mixing for Dyers I" with Carol Soderlund will be held Sept. 17-21, at Glacier Camp in Lakeside, MT. Dye the color you choose, not the color that chooses you! Explore the unlimited number of hues possible by mixing only pure reds, yellows, and blues of Procion MX dye. Each student will build a sample book of more than 1,000 dye formulas on 100% cotton fabric. This book will become an invaluable reference for future dyeing. Carol Soderlund, award winning quilt artist, will teach this popular class. Workshop will be hosted by weaver Kathy Regier, of Trout Creek MT. All the details are available at www.sophiacenterofmontana.com or call Kathy at 406-827-3978. DEADLINE: May 10, 2008.

Heritage Conservation Network is hosting a workshop in Virginia City July 14-18 that will bring volunteers to this Gold Rush city to preserve the Susan Marr House, a building that has only half a roof and has suffered from sixty years of exposure to the elements. The site can accommodate up to 10 participants. The cost is \$425, which includes instruction, materials and insurance. Transportation, meals and lodging are the volunteers' responsibility. No experience working with historic buildings is necessary. For details and registration information, visit www.heritageconservation.net/ws-virginia-city-2008.htm or call 1-303-444-0128. DEADLINE: June 15, 2008.

Montana Art Experience, taught by instructors from Montana Art Workshop, will be held Aug. 24-30 in East Glacier. All levels of artists are invited to apply. The workshop will take place at the inspiring Rising Wolf Ranch near East Glacier. Cost is \$725 and includes room, board and instruction fees. Contact Wanda Mumm at 406-889-5187 or email montana2.wanda@gmail.com.

The Missoula Art Museum presents these classes: Relief Collagraph without a Press, with Bev Glueckert, May 10, \$72-\$80; Beginning Intaglio Printmaking, with Bev Glueckert, May 17, \$72-\$80; Mixed Media Field Drawings, with Jeanne Dodds, July 22, \$27-\$30; Wring, Squeeze, Press, Repeat: Shibori, with Monica Howie, July 19, \$63-\$70; and Encaustic Workshop, with Shawna

Moore, June 7, \$117-\$130 plus \$10 materials. Call 406-728-0447.

So You Want to Make a Movie! a seminar by Take Two Seminars for individuals who want to make a broadcast-ready movie or short film suitable for film festivals on local access television, will be held May 3 at Ruby's Inn in Missoula. Independent short film producer and director David Rowell Workman, scriptwriter Donna Black and videographer Brian Maston will lecture on the complete creation process. Cost is \$60. Visit www.taketwoseminars.org/3.html or call 406-880-1134.

Butte Silver Bow Art Foundation presents the following workshops: Advanced Drawing, with Glenn Bodish, May 26, \$25; Digital Photography, with Glenn Bodish, May 13-14, \$60; Summer Art Camp for Kids, June 9-13, \$150; and Summer Art Intensive, with Glenn Bodish, June 16-20, ages 11-15 years, \$150. Call 406-723-7600.

The Sandpiper Gallery in Polson offers these workshops: Julie Christopher, Watercolor, June 5-6; Rusty Warner, Portrait and Figure in Oil, June 12-15; Nancy Zadra, Children's Workshop, July 8-10; Joanne Simpson, Watercolor for the Terrified, July 14-18; Color Theory, Aug. 4-8 and Watercolor Tricks, Aug. 18-22; Melissa Carr, Keeping an Artist Sketchbook, Aug. 11-15; Linda Phillipi, Mandelas, Aug. 29-31; and Ted Winger, Acrylics, Sept. 12-13. Call 406-883-5956.

The Boulder River Rhythm Retreat will be held June 25-29 south of Big Timber. The Drum Brothers and friends fill the days with rhythm classes, song circles, the option to build a drum, and African dance classes. Cost is \$430 for the workshop, additional fees for building drums. Call 406-726-4448 or visit www.drumbrothers.com. DEADLINE: June 20, 2008.

The 6th annual Big Sky Youth Harmony Rendezvous, an a cappella vocal music camp sponsored by the Montana chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society and Sweet Adelines International, is scheduled for June 18-22 at the Luccock Park Camp, south of Livingston. The camp, open to all high school students and vocal music teachers, will be lead by dynamic music directors from the Barbershop Harmony Society and Sweet Adelines. All camp members will be taught the close harmony of the barbershop-style of music, which, when sung in tune with matching vocal production, results in spine-tingling overtones. The Rendezvous is approved for 21 OPI renewal units for all vocal teachers attending the camp. The \$100 registration fee includes music, food, lodging, T-shirt, in addition to three days of barbershop music instruction and performance. For students who need help paying the fee, scholarships are available. For more information, visit www.harmonyrendezvous.org, or call Dennis Bloxham at 406-223-7824.

Jane Latus Emmert will offer a four-week Art for Healing workshop series on Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. June 3-24 at her home studio in Whitefish. After the death of her sister, Amy Latus, Emmert walked through the grief process using art and poetry to express her pain and wrote a grief book titled, *You Died, and I Wanted to Die, Too*. The workshop features art and writing exercises to help individuals "show" and "tell" their experiences to facilitate healing. Emmert teaches Art for Healing workshops around the United States to all ages. No previous art or writing skills are required. Register at www.angelcloudart.com or call 406-270-1238.

Rimrock Opera Kids' Camp, the annual ROCK camp for kids, will be held June 23-27 in Billings with a public performance Friday afternoon. Campers prepare the music and dialogue, their costumes and their makeup during this intense week. For more information about ROCK, Rimrock Opera Chorus for Kids, please contact general director Douglas Nagle, 406-671-2214 or camp director Amy Logan at 406-671-5174.

Billings Studio Theatre offers Broadway Bound Summer Camp, a two-week, full-day Theatre for Kids Only camp for children eight to 18 years old. Instruction includes acting, singing and dancing. Camp runs June 16-28, with two performances on June 28. For more information, call 406-248-1141.

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Website helps integrate technology

Struggling to integrate technology into your organization? The Progressive Technology Project may offer some solutions.

The PTP offers a Technology Assessment and Planning website (www.progressivetech.org), which includes resources that arts organizations can use to learn how to improve their application of technology. Documents on the site include "Assessment Guide for Organizers," "Organizational Technology Assessment" and "Planning Tool and Technology Planning Guide." All are in PDF format.

— National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Red Lodge Clay Center offers the following workshops: Demonstration Workshop with Jason Walker, May 3-4; and a Demonstration and Participation Workshop with Wesley Anderegg, Aug. 2-3. Call 406-446-3993 for more information.

The first Russell's Roundup Day Camp will be held June 16-20 at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls. The camps are held one week every month throughout the summer and are open to students entering grades five through nine. The museum also offers the Art Explorers Summer Day Camp for children entering first through fifth grade, every other Thursday beginning June 12. Call the Education Department at 406-727-8787 ext. 347 to register or for more details.

Montana Fiddle Camps will be held June 1-6 and June 8-13 in Monarch, MT. The 13th annual camps bring together a dazzling array of music instructors who offer fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo and hammered dulcimer lessons. Classes, seminars and concerts are offered in an intimate and beautiful setting. For more information, contact Fred Buckley, 406-323-1198 or visit www.montanafiddlers.org.

The Red Lodge Music Festival, open to students from eighth grade through high school, will be held June 7-15. Campers will recreate in the Beartooth Mountains, and also be involved in musical performances in chamber music and larger groups such as wind ensembles, jazz ensembles and orchestras. Professional musicians will work with campers in master classes. Partial tuition scholarships are available, based on need. For more information, contact Eloise R. Kirk, 3206 Green Terrace Dr., Billings, MT 59102; 406-252-4599; email: rlmf@tgsolution.net; or visit www.redlodgemusicfestival.org.

The Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings kicks off their Experience Art adult art education classes and workshops with Marilyn Beth Hughes, Watercolor Wet and Dry, May 3-4; cost is \$100. The next class is with Neil Jussila, Freehand Sketching at Riverfront Park, June 7; cost is \$40. For information or to register, call 406-256-6804; email: artinfo@museum.org; or visit www.artmuseum.org.

Watercolor Workshop, sponsored by Art Escapes in Montana, will be held May 31-June 4 at Glacier Camp Conference Center in Lakeside. Workshop features five days of enjoyable, informative, and inspiring instruction in watercolor techniques

and design principles. Suitable for beginning to advanced painters. Cost is \$525. Call Florence O'Neal at 406-257-0604 or visit www.artescapesmontana.com.

The Archie Bray Foundation in Helena offers these workshops: Soda Kiln Design and Construction with Donovan Palmquist, May 19-23, \$425 plus \$25 lab fee; Drawn to the Surface with Akio Takamori and Kurt Weiser, June 16-27, \$750 plus \$100 lab fee; Beyond Brown: Glazing for the Wood Kiln with Josh DeWeese, July 9-13, \$425 plus \$50 lab fee; To the Tonic of Any Key ... with Walter McConnell and Linda Sormin, August 4-8, \$500 plus \$50 lab fee; Surface Enrichment and Working in Earthenware with Ron Meyers, August 22-24, \$285 plus \$35 lab fee; and Human Nature with Patti Warashina, Sept. 6-7, \$200. Call 406-443-3502 or visit www.archiebray.org for faculty bios and complete workshop descriptions.

Residencies

Red Lodge Clay Center offers two residency options. Year-long residencies run Sept. 1 through Aug. 15. Short-term, proposal-based residencies ranging from one week to six months are considered throughout the year. The year-long residency is ideal for committed individuals in transition from post baccalaureate studies to graduate school, as well as those pursuing the development of professional artistic careers. The short-term residency is ideal for the ceramic artist who is working to complete a special project. Short-term residencies will be awarded as studio space becomes available. Short-term residents are responsible for all housing and studio-related expenses. For more information, contact the Red Lodge Clay Center, PO Box 1527, Red Lodge, MT 59068; call 406-446-3993; or visit www.redlodgeclaycenter.com.

Literature

The Writers Network Screenplay and Fiction Competition, co-sponsored by WGA Signatory Literary Agencies in Los Angeles and New York, is designed to give new and talented writers across the country the chance to pursue a career in film, television and/or literature. Each year, up to ten winners in each category are chosen to participate, each receiving literary representation for up to two projects during the course of one year and up to \$1,000 cash. For application materials and procedures, contact the Writers Network Annual Screenplay and Fiction Competition,

287 S. Robertson Blvd., #467, Beverly Hills, CA 90211, c/o Sarah Kelly, Program Director; email writernet@aol.com. For more information, visit www.fadeinonline.com.

Wallace Stegner Fellowships are two-year fellowships, five in poetry and five in fiction, which are given annually to allow emerging writers to develop their craft in workshops with senior faculty members at Stanford University. For application materials and procedures, contact Stanford University, Wallace Stegner Fellowships, Creative Writing Program, Department of English, Stanford, CA 94035-2087, c/o Ryan Jacobs; call 650-723-0011; email ryanj@stanford.edu. For more information, visit www.stanford.edu/dept/english/cw.

Media Arts

PBS Foundation Social Entrepreneurship Fund: PBS Programming Services is soliciting proposals for public television stations and independent producers for projects that will provide PBS viewing audiences with diverse opportunities to learn about social entrepreneurship and the life-changing work that social entrepreneurs are performing across the globe. For application materials and procedures, contact PBS Foundation Social Entrepreneurship Fund, (SEF), 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, c/o Steven Grey, Vice President; call 703-739-5150; email cjones@pbs.org. For more information, visit www.pbs.org/producers. DEADLINE: Nov. 5, 2008.

Job Opportunities

Like to Travel? Art Mobile of Montana's part-time Teaching Artist position offers the opportunity to travel around beautiful Montana with the AMM van. Requirements: teaching artist or art teacher; experience with public speaking for delivering multiple presentations about annual art exhibit, teaching a variety of art lessons. Duties include: preparation, office duties and record keeping, contact with exhibiting artists, among other responsibilities. Flexible hours, lifting required. Possible future growth with job, including grant writing. Position begins mid to late summer 2008. Check out the website: www.artmobilemontana.org. For more information call 970-263-4501 or email scolburn@acsol.net.

ARTS & CULTURE: Statewide Service Organizations

MT Alliance for Arts Education, Karen Lauersdorf, Administrative Assistant, PO Box 1124, Manhattan, MT 59741; 406-284-4274; email: mtmaae@yahoo.com; www.mtae.org. Advocacy organization for arts education.

MT Art Education Assn., Co-President Susan Arthur, Flathead High School, 644 4th Ave. West, Kalispell, MT; 406-751-3500; email: arthurs@sd5.k12.mt.us. Provides professional information and development for art teachers in all areas.

MT Arts, PO Box 1872, Bozeman, MT 59771; 406-585-9551. Provides administrative services for statewide organizations and some local groups and acts as a fiscal agent for emerging arts organizations.

MT Assn. of Symphony Orchestras, PO Box 1872, Bozeman, MT 59771; 406-585-9551; www.montanasymphonies.org. Provides resource sharing, imports musicians and conducts seminars and conferences.

MT Center for the Book, c/o Montana Committee for the Humanities, 311 Brantly Hall, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812; 406-243-6022, ask for Mark Sherouse; www.montanabook.org. Organizes public forums featuring Montana authors; and promotes reading, book arts and publishing.

MT China Painting Art Assn., 1805 Highland, Helena, MT 59601; 406-443-5583. Promotes the art of china painting, porcelain and glass; sponsors a yearly public show featuring nationally known teachers.

MT Committee for the Humanities, 311 Brantly Hall, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812; 406-243-6022; www.humanities-mt.org. Presents humanities programs, awards grants, conducts speakers bureau, reading/discussion groups and teacher programs.

MT Community Foundation, 101 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 211, Helena, MT 59601; 406-443-8313; email: mctcf@mt.net; www.mctcf.org. Maintains endowments for nonprofit organizations and awards grants.

MT Cultural Advocacy, PO Box 1872, Bozeman, MT 59771; 406-585-9551. Coalition of arts and cultural agencies that lobbies the state legislature to maintain

funding of cultural agencies and oversees legislation affecting Montana's cultural sector.

MT Dance Arts Assn., PO Box 1872, Bozeman, MT 59771; 406-585-9551. Sponsors a fall and spring workshop for young Montana dancers, administers a summer scholarship program and presents a summer teachers' workshop.

MT Institute of the Arts, PO Box 1824, Bozeman, MT 59771; 406-587-7636. Assists artists in all disciplines through educational projects, information, and workshops.

MT Music Educators Assn., Beth Mazanec, 1006 Saddle Dr., Helena, MT 59601; 406-442-3178 (O); email: bimazanec@tdisp.com. Provides professional information and development for music teachers in all areas.

MT Painters Alliance, Susan Blackwood and Howard Friedland, 711 Blackmore Place, Bozeman, MT 59715; 406-586-4484. A statewide organization comprised of professional outdoor painters who seek to showcase the vast variety and spectacular beauty of Montana.

MT Performing Arts Consortium, PO Box 1872, Bozeman, MT 59771; 406-585-9551; www.mtperformingarts.org. Supports performing arts presenting in large and small communities; sponsors an annual conference showcasing performing arts; facilitates block-booking; and provides quick-grants to rural presenters.

MT Preservation Alliance, 516 N. Park, Suite A, Helena, MT 59601; 406-457-2822; www.preservemontana.org. Provides technical assistance and information on historic preservation issues through a circuit rider program. Publishes Preservation Montana.

MT Public Television Assn., PO Box 503, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645; 406-547-3803; Supports efforts of Montana's rural low power public television stations; provides technical assistance in video production and station application procedures and sponsors an annual conference.

MT Theatre Education Assn. (MTEA), President Larry Brazill, 9 N. Dakota, Dillon, MT 59725; 406-683-7038; email: l_brazill@umwestern.edu. A K-12 education

resource for Montana theatre educators; present yearly at MEA-MFT/APT and are affiliated with EDTA.

MT Thespians, State Director, Sarah DeGrandpre, Big Sky High School, 3100 South Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59804; 406-728-2401; email: sdegrandpre@mcps.k12.mt.us. Provides professional information and development for theater teachers in all areas.

MT Watercolor Society, PO Box 3002, Missoula, MT 59807; Ron Paulick, membership chair, 406-453-4076; email: cambrea@mt.net; www.montanawatercolor.org. Sponsors two annual workshops, a yearly Open Members show, a national Juried Watermedia Exhibition, and a quarterly newsletter.

Museum and Art Gallery Directors Assn., 2112 First Avenue North, Great Falls, MT 59401; 406-761-1797; email: montanaart@hotmail.com; www.mt-magda.org. Supports visual art centers and galleries through traveling exhibitions, technical assistance and an annual conference.

Museums Assn. of Montana, MT Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620; 406-444-4710; www.montanamuseums.org. Supports museums of all disciplines through annual conferences, quarterly newsletters and technical assistance with museum issues.

Rocky Mountain Photo Club, 1518 Howell St., Missoula, MT 59802; 406-728-5374. Provides photography education, professional information, workshops and opportunities for members to show work in galleries.

VSA arts of Montana, PO Box 7225, Missoula, MT 59807; 406-549-2984; www.vsamontana.org. Provides information, technical assistance and workshops on working with differently-abled constituencies.

Writer's Voice of the Billings Family YMCA, 402 N. 32nd St., Billings, MT 59101; 406-248-1685. Assists emerging writers in artistic and professional development; supports accomplished writers; provides public programs that challenge the traditional definition of literary arts.

MAC Grants and Services

Public Value Partnerships

The Montana Arts Council is pleased to continue operating support grants for Montana non-profit arts organizations under a program entitled Public Value Partnerships. Public value partners are defined as organizations making a positive difference in the individual and collective lives of the citizens of the state through the arts, and worthy of state investment. These grants fund Montana non-profit arts organizations who have had their 501(c)(3) status for a minimum of five years and a half-time paid staff member. Guideline specifics are available on the MAC website. Current grants run July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2010. No new applications are being accepted since the funding is fully committed.

Cultural and Aesthetic Project Grants

In 1975, the Montana Legislature set aside a percentage of the Coal Tax to restore murals in the Capitol and support other cultural and aesthetic projects. Grant funds are derived from the interest earned on this Cultural Trust.

Any person, association, group, or governmental agency may apply. All applications must, however, be officially sponsored by a governmental entity. Requirements include a 1:1 cash or in-kind goods and services match for Special Projects Under \$4,500, Special Projects and Operational Support. Capital expenditures require a 3:1 match of cash or in-kind goods and services. The application deadline is August 1, 2008 for FY 2010-2011.

Artists in Schools/Communities Grants

The Arts Education program contains three distinct components which provide participatory experiences in arts learning that increase or strengthen participants' knowledge and skills in the arts.

1. Artist visits: The artist visits program encompasses visits lasting from one to four days with no more than four hours of contact time per day.

2. Short-term residencies: These last one to four weeks, or a total of five to 20 days over a longer period of time. Long-term residencies:

These are residencies of five weeks or longer, up to one year.

3. Special projects: This funding broadly supports the creation of projects that establish, expand, or advance both school curriculum and educational arts programming. Projects that support and encourage the community's lifelong learning, appreciation and enjoyment of the arts are also funded.

The Montana Arts Council awards grants to Montana organizations that are nonprofit and exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a), which include the 501(c)(3) designation of the Internal Revenue Code, or are units of government, educational institutions, or local chapters of tax-exempt national organizations.

Deadlines are ongoing. To apply, visit MAC's website at <http://art.mt.gov> or call the MAC Arts Education Hotline at 1-800-282-3092.

Opportunity Grants

Opportunity Grants are given throughout the year to enable the council to respond to artists' or organizations' opportunities or emergencies. Grants are available up to \$1,000, and decisions will be dictated by the availability of funds and the nature of the request. Grants must be matched 1:1 in cash or in-kind goods and services. Awards are made directly by the council and applications are reviewed monthly.

Applications must be received by MAC by the first of each month. Funding is allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Arts Education Artist Registry

The Arts Education program supports a wide range of residencies by professional working artists and local or regional arts organizations (touring or locally based). Activities are hands-on and process-oriented. The artist must be able to clearly communicate the concepts and skills of the chosen art form and relate well to people in a variety of educational settings.

Deadlines are ongoing. To apply visit MAC's website at <http://art.mt.gov> or call the MAC Arts Education Hotline at 1-800-282-3092.

Professional Development Grants

Professional Development Grants provide matching funds for Montanans to: 1) attend seminars, conferences and workshops to further professional development or to improve artistic quality, community service in the arts, or arts management skills and operations; and 2) hire a consultant of your choice to advise artists or nonprofit arts organizations on technical matters, specific programs, projects, administrative functions, or facilitate strategic planning, marketing or development planning. The amounts of these grants will not exceed \$750 for individuals and \$1,000 for organizations and will depend on available funds. A 1:1 match in cash or in-kind goods and services is required.

Applications must be received by MAC the first of each month. Applications are reviewed monthly. Funding is allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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Help us find technical assistance articles for State of the Arts

The Montana Arts Council is requesting submissions from artists and organizations on practical professional development tips for artists for upcoming issues of State of the Arts.

Topics might include:
 • "How to" articles (i.e. marketing tips for the beginning visual artist, how to find a publisher for your first book, doing your own PR, writing an effective artist statement or how to make a CD).

• Innovative arts education projects or statistics.

Please limit submissions to 500 words. Call MAC at 406-444-6510 or email sflynn@mt.gov before submitting stories.

Grant Programs

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send your request to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201 • FAX 406-444-6548 • email mac@mt.gov

Grant guidelines and applications can also be downloaded at <http://art.mt.gov>

Yes, please send me copies of the following grant guidelines (when guidelines are available)

- Artist in Schools/Communities Sponsor Application
- Arts Education Artist Registry Application
- Cultural Trust Grant Application
- Montana Circle of American Masters Nomination Form
- Opportunity Grant Application
- Professional Development Award Grant Application
- Public Value Partnerships Application
- T.E.A., Teacher Exploration of the Arts Application
- Other _____

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Mail to: Montana Arts Council,
PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201;
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Event: _____

Description: _____

Event Location: _____

Date(s): _____

Time(s): _____

Sponsor: _____

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The Great Falls Tribune also welcomes event submissions. Please send to Great Falls Tribune, Hot Ticket, PO Box 5468, Great Falls, MT 59403; 800-438-6600, ext. 464; email: tribfeatures@safast.net

STATE OF THE

Arts



Great Falls Symphony Maestro Gordon Johnson and virtuoso Midori enjoying the moment.

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- 2 Arni's Addendum: How MAC Receives Federal Funding
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MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

State of the Arts

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

830 NORTH WARREN

PO BOX 202201

HELENA, MT 59620-2201

V: 406-444-6430; T:711

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MAC introduces Montana's Circle of American Masters

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State of Montana programs
are available to all Montanans.
Upon request, an alternative
accessible format will be provided.
Call 406-444-6449

May/June 2008